

Cariboo *and* Northwest DIGEST

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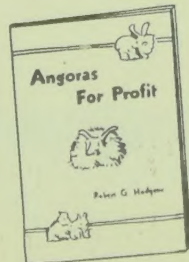
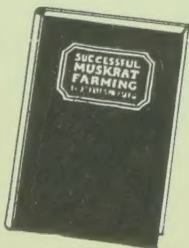
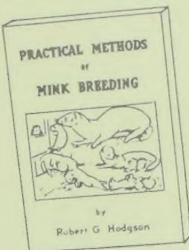
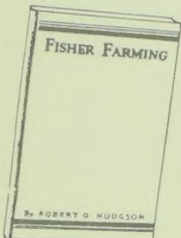
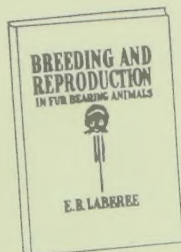
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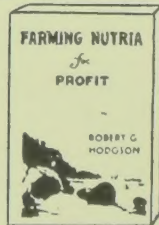
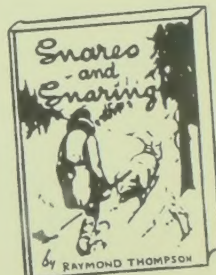
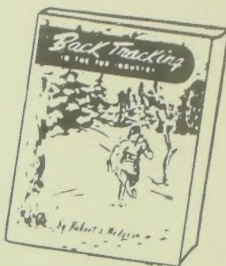
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CARIBOO & NORTHWEST DIGEST

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Cariboo & Northwest

DIGEST



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"RESERVED" - For Whom ?

If a prospector, or layman for that matter, were to walk ten miles north of Vancouver, or Kamloops, or Trail, or Prince Rupert (or anywhere else in B.C.) - and stumble upon a ten foot thick seam of high grade coal, the existence of which was never before known, it would do him not one bit of good. He couldn't stake it, prospect its possibilities, develop it, mine it, or sell one pound of it - for it is under government "reserve."

A few years ago the B.C. Legislature passed a bill placing all coal resources in the province, known or unknown, discovered or yet to be discovered, under reserve. Only the coal from previously Crown Granted mineral claims may be mined without government permission, and regulation.

It is true a permit may be secured (from year to year) to mine, and sell, 100, 1,000, or even 5,000 tons of coal from the newly discovered deposit, but it is equally true that such a permit is available only at the discretion of the B.C. Coal and Petroleum Board, and is issued on a year to year basis - **WITH NO GUARANTEE OF RENEWAL.**

Under such regulations there can be little or no incentive for the prospector to search for coal, nor for the investor to sink his money into costly mining equipment, for he has no surety that his permit will be renewed despite what possible demand there may be for the product from the mine.

It is utterly ridiculous that this state of affairs should exist at a time when Canada, while trying to conserve U.S. dollars is importing from the U.S. each year some two hundred million dollars worth of coal and petroleum products, a goodly percentage of which find its way to B.C. - the province in which an estimated 6 BILLION tons of high grade bituminous and semi-anthracite coal are waiting to be developed and distributed to Canadian and world markets.

It is indeed strange that while our government has gone to great lengths to assure the people of B.C. that it is doing everything that can be done to hasten and expedite the development of our resources, including coal, it has in reality ham-strung every honest effort to develop northern coal resources, for example:-

(1) When Sweden's Johnson Steamship Co. took an option on the Burns Foundation coal holdings on Carbon River, and spent \$100,000.

Please turn page

verifying that there were 17 million tons of high grade coal blocked out and millions more in sight, they made representations at Victoria for permission to build a railway from Carbon River to connect with the C.N.R. at Hazelton, with the intention of shipping to Sweden and world markets from the port of Prince Rupert. Permission was denied, on the grounds that it would 'kill' the P.G.E. project to the Peace River country. They offered then, to build a line down the Rocky Mountain Trench to Prince George..... Permission for that project was also denied, whereupon Johnson Steamship Co. gave up its option and went in search of coal elsewhere.

(2) When the Bowron Coal Co. was formed three years ago for the purpose of acquiring and developing a portion of the estimated 200,000,000 tons of high grade coal in the Bear River valley twenty miles south of the C.N.R. mainline at Hansard, it might be supposed that the government would have jumped at the chance of assisting in every way the development of this most accessible of all new coal fields. But no. Every possible obstacle was placed in the path of the company. Even the Department of Mines failed to live up to the legislation which states that 50% of the cost of building all mining roads shall be paid by said Department. Yet, while reneging on its share of the cost of constructing a 30 mile road into this known large coal deposit in the Prince George area, the Department willingly paid half the cost of building a 20 mile road into a doubtful metallic mining prospect 60 miles to the south.

(3) In the Hassler Creek area of the Peace River country, where our government has just spent \$250,000. of public funds in trying to prove the existence of coal deposits (to justify the construction of the Hart Highway) - which shows signs of turning into a financial white elephant, - the Coal Mining Permit of Wilson Freightways Ltd. of Dawson Creek, was cancelled in 1947 on the grounds that their land rental had lapsed - an oversight on the part of the office staff which involved a paltry \$640.00 and which was immediately rectified. The company in question had first started mining at Hassler Creek in 1944, under 'permit,' and had, until the cancellation of the permit, mined and marketed some 4,500 tons of coal, and had invested some \$90,000. in the venture. No

Continued on page 38

Over The Editor's Desk

The Cariboo & Northwest Digest,
Quesnel B.C.

Dear Sirs:

Thank you again for your interesting magazine. The "Digest" and the Alaskan Sportsman are the two most completely read magazines that come into our house.

I expect to be up in your country again this fall and am already trying to gather information. I think it would surprise you to know how hard it is for us down here to get any detailed information about some of the out-of-the-way places to fish and camp. This year I want to go to the Fulton River. There is a road North from Topely that hits Babine Lake just about where the Fulton river comes in, and I understand there are some cabins there available for rental. Have you any idea who has charge of these cabins? I have looked through your advertising very carefully and have seen no mention of them. Also a few months ago you had a good article about the new road Mr. Skoglund built from Telkwa into Chapman Lake. This would let us fish the Fulton quite a way west of Babine. But, do you know whether the road hits the lake at the East end and where the river comes out? If not, are there any boats available for rental, or is there a trail down to the mouth of the river? Has anyone got ambitious and put a permanent camp in there? I would be glad to stay at a permanent camp, or to hire a guide, if I could just find out where in the dickens to write to make necessary arrangements. Your guides and camp operators should patronize the advertising section of your magazine more.

Hope to see you next September.

Yours very truly,
Llyod Hamilton Fox, M.D.
2025 Eighteenth Street,
Bakersfield, California, U.S.



EDITOR'S NOTE: According to our information the road is completed only to Chapman Lake, and there are no lodges or game guides located there. Anyone having the detailed information Mr. Fox desires is requested to write us, or, better still, write to the good Dr. Fox himself.

British Columbia - 1851-1914

The following is the 8th of a series of excerpts
from the historical volume entitled "British Columbia"

by **F.W. HOWAY** and **E.O.S. SCHOLEFIELD**

published in 1914 by the S.J. CLARKE Publishing Co. and now out of print



IN THIS ISSUE

The Golden Years In Cariboo

The year 1863 was the banner year of Cariboo. Williams Creek was mined along a stretch of seven miles, and about four thousand men found employment there. The deep diggings below the canyon were in full swing. Gold was being produced on a scale which exceeded California in its palmiest days. The results were in many cases almost incredible. A few isolated, well-authenticated instances will be given, because the reports of such golden harvests went abroad and aided to draw to the colony many persons filled with hopes of similar success.

The Cameron claim yielded, during 1863, from forty to one hundred and twenty ounces to each of three shifts per day. In October John A. Cameron, "Cariboo Cameron," its principal shareholder, brought out about \$150,000, his share of its yield for three months. Viscount Milton and Dr. W.B. Cheadle saw a wash-up on the Raby, which filled one of the tin cases used for preserved meats, holding nearly a quart and valued at about 1,000 Pounds, the result of fifteen hours' work. Amongst this were several shillings and quarter dollars, which had dropped out of the men's pockets and turned up again in the dump box. The Diller took out one hundred and two pounds Troy in a single day. The Cunningham produced, on an average, \$2,000 per day for a whole season.

The following summary shows the returns from the principal claims on Williams Creek to the end of 1863: The Adams yielded \$50,000 from 100 feet; the Steele, \$120,000 from 80 feet; the Burns, \$140,000 from 80 feet; the Canadian, \$180,000 from 120 feet; the Never-sweat, \$100,000 from 120 feet; the Moffatt, \$90,000 from 50 feet; the Tinker, \$120,000 from 140 feet; the Wattie, \$130,000 from 100 feet; besides the Black Jack Tunnel, Barker

Baldhead, Abbott, Gier, Wilson, Beauregarde, Raby, Cameron, Prince of Wales, and numbers of others of world-wide fame. Forty claims at least paid handsomely, and from about twenty was taken out steadily, every twenty-four hours, from seventy to four hundred ounces.

Besides Williams Creek, Keithley, Goose, Cunningham, Lightning, Jack of Clubs, Grouse, Chisholm, Sovereign, Fountain, Harvey, Nelson Stevens, Snowshoe, Last Chance, Anderson, California, Thistle, Sugar, Willow, McCallum, Tababoo, and Lowhee, each drew a share of attention, and miners were at work upon them all.

The narrow gulch of Lowhee Creek for a while bade fair to equal Williams Creek, as indeed its early production already mentioned had promised. When the bed-rock was reached on the Cornish claim \$4 to the pan was obtained and for a considerable time between three hundred and four hundred ounces a day were taken from the Sage Miller claim.

On Lightning Creek, one company - the Butcher - working on a hill claim sixty feet above the bed of the stream, struck "pay" late in the fall of 1863, taking out two hundred ounces in one day. Another company was making forty ounces a day on this creek.

The work upon the other creeks named, while it aided to swell the grand total of production was more or less cursory and spasmodic and belongs rather to the stories of the separate creeks than to the history of the colony.

The practical completion of the Cariboo road in 1863 greatly decreased the cost of living in that distant region. The following will give an idea of the prices normally prevailing in 1863 and 1864: Flour, 32 to 35 cents a pound; bacon, 50 to 75 cents a pound; butter, \$1.25 a pound; coffee, \$1 a pound; beef, 40 cents

a pound; mutton, 40 to 45 cents a pound; beans, 30 to 40 cents a pound; sugar, 50 to 60 cents a pound; tea, \$1 to \$1.25 a pound; syrup, 65 cents a pound; potatoes, 20 to 25 cents a pound and other food in proportion. Sawn lumber was 10 cents to 12 1/2 cents a foot; cordwood, \$12 a cord; miners' wages \$10 a day. Then too, the ease of access insured a steady supply of the necessities of life; the experience of 1862 in this respect was never repeated.

From the changed conditions flowed a further result. In the winter of 1862-63 Cariboo was practically a deserted land. Some eighty miners only remained. But in the following winter some five hundred or six hundred miners stayed on Williams Creek. In their moss-chinked mud-roofed log-huts, with their large, cheerful fire-places, they spent the short days and long nights, developing a rude sort of social intercourse, and whiling away the monotony with conversation and cards. Some even worked a great part of the time, for during the winter of 1863-4 for the first time in the history of Cariboo, a few claims - the Cameron, Raby, and Caledonia, for instance, being deep diggings carried on operations. But the majority of miners and mine-owners preferred to take advantage of the annual "lay-over" and spend their winters in the genial climate and more attractive surroundings of Victoria and San Francisco.

Cariboo drew to itself not only miners, but all the classes that naturally congregate where money is plentiful and easily obtained. Gamblers flocked like vultures to the spot. The authorities resolutely set their faces against this evil, but the vice was too deeply rooted to be completely eradicated. It merely went under cover and continued to flourish in private. An anomalous class of females, known as the hurdy-gurdy girls, made their appearance in Cariboo. They were mostly of German extraction. They frequented the saloons and drinking places and, for a money consideration, danced with all applicants. But, at the same time their morals were above reproach.

"They danced at nicht in dresses light,
Frae late until the early, O!
But, oh! their hearts were hard as flint,
Which vexed the laddies sairly, O!

**

"The dollar was their only love,
And that they lo'ed fu' dearly, O!
They dinna care a flea for men,
Let them court hooe'er sincerely, O!

**

"Bonnie are the hurdies, O!

The German hurdy-gurdys, O!

The daftest hour that e'er I spent,

Was dancing wi' the hurdies, O!

**

FEMALE IMMIGRATION

While on this subject, a word may be added on the cognate one of female immigration. From 1858 to 1863 there was practically no family life in the colony of British Columbia, outside of New Westminster, Hope, Yale, and Douglas trading points where stable population existed. In 1862, it is true that Mrs. John A. Cameron resided on Williams Creek with her husband the celebrated "Cariboo Cameron," who was even then accounted rich; but the poorer adventurer left wife and family behind. Until the completion of the Cariboo road and the operation of stage-coaches no regular means of travel existed beyond the trading centres mentioned. A mining population, at times reaching four thousand or even six thousand, was in Cariboo in 1862 and 1863, and yet not more than three or four married women in all that vast region. The remainder of the sex were the "hurdies," Indian women, who became the mistresses, sometimes the wives of the miners, and women of the underworld. Many of the miners had left their families in Canada or the United States, but the majority were unmarried.

Sir E.B. Lytton and the Duke of Newcastle wrestled with the political problems of the colony, but its social problems engrossed the attention of the Bishops of Oxford and London. Hearing the "cry from Macedonia," they called a meeting in London in February, 1862, at which the Lord Mayor presided. As a result, the British Columbia Emigration Society was formed to encourage the emigration of respectable, industrious women to the colony, not only as domestic servants, but as a step towards supplying wives for the miners and settlers, thus establishing a solid basis of colonial existence. A prominent worker in this scheme, as in all others relating to the social and religious life of the new colony, was the Baroness Burdett-Coutts.

The society lost no time. On April 17, 1862, the first contingent of wives to be, consisting of about twenty girls, taken from orphan asylums, left England. They were thoroughly trained in all branches of domestic service, and the result of the venture induced the society to enter more ambitiously into the work.

In June, 1862, the Tynemouth, a staunch iron



THE NE'ER DO WEEL, GROUSE CREEK



A MINE

screw steamer of one thousand six hundred and twenty tons register and six hundred horsepower, which had won a good reputation during the Crimean war by weathering out a terrible storm in the Black Sea, in which many vessels were lost, was about to be dispatched to the colony. The magnetic influence of Cariboo drew some three hundred passengers, but, says Frederick Whympster, the artist and well-known traveller, who was one of them: "our most noticeable living freight was, however, an invoice of sixty young ladies destined for the colonial and matrimonial market. They had been sent out by a home society under the watchful care of a clergyman and a matron; and they must have passed the dreariest three months of their existence on board, for they were isolated from the rest of the passengers, and could only look at the fun and amusements in which every one else could take part."

Arriving at Esquimalt on September 17th, the young ladies were transferred to H.M.S. Forward and brought to Victoria, where they were landed in small boats in front of the Government buildings at James Bay and marched to the Main Barracks, which had been previously prepared for their temporary accommodation. Although the time and place of disembarkation had been shrouded in mystery, yet, as soon as it became known, a continuous stream of humanity set in towards the point indicated which very shortly resulted in every available inch of ground, from which a view could be obtained, being occupied by men of all ages professions, trades and callings, and stations in life, eagerly craning their necks for a sight of the unique, long-looked-for, and much-discussed "cargo." As soon as the girls were on shore and in marching order, the dense crowd of eager and expectant spectators fell back, opening up a narrow passage, through which the females marched in tolerably good order, two and two, towards their temporary home. The general opinion was that the immigrants had made a very creditable showing considering that they had just disembarked from a long voyage. There were a few women amongst them, but the majority were girls, apparently from twelve to eighteen years of age.

The agents of the society had been busy while the "cargo" was in transit, and a large number were immediately placed in situations of domestic service, and gradually the greater part of the shipment was absorbed by the labour and matrimonial markets. Half of them, married soon after arrival or went into service but a certain proportion went quickly to the

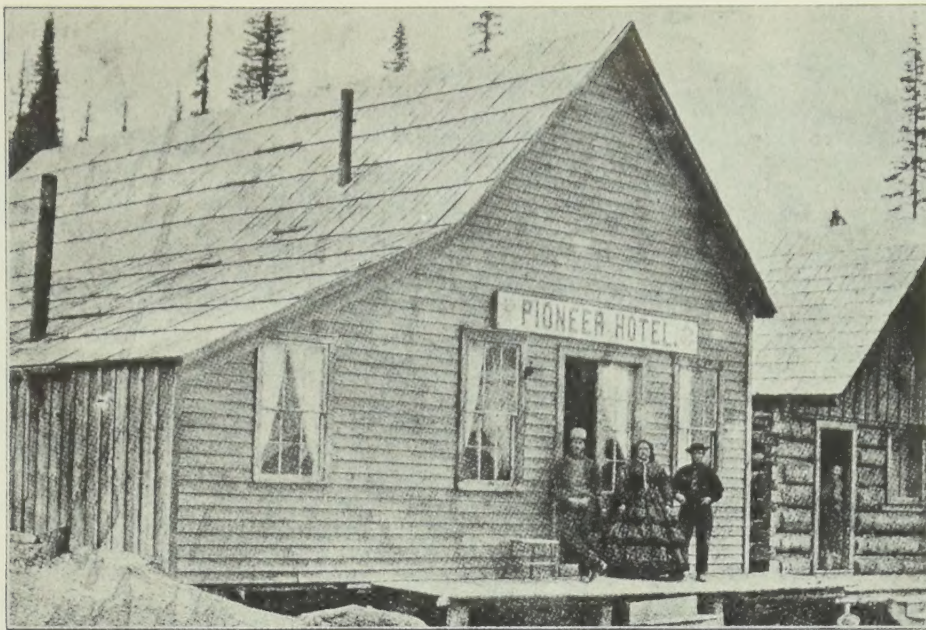
bad and, from appearances, had been there before. Taken as a whole, the venture was a success, but it was a delicate undertaking and, while deserving respect for the benevolent motive behind it, and for the good actually accomplished, it may be doubted whether such a method is to be recommended for supplying the wants of a new colony.

Another shipment of thirty-six girls, sent out by the same society, arrived in Esquimalt on the Robert Lowe on January 10, 1863. Immediately upon their arrival twenty-five found positions in service. The Rev. Mr. Mcfie, the Congregational minister in Victoria, says on this subject: "There was too little care exercised in the selection of them, by those directing the movement and some, in consequence turned out badly. But all who conducted themselves properly have had offers of marriage and most of them have long since become participants of conjugal felicity."

Similar attempts were made in the adjoining territory of Washington, after the close of the Civil War. Some seven hundred war orphans - the Mercer immigration - were brought to Puget Sound in two shipments. Patriotism and the more stable conditions then prevailing gave these efforts a greater success than had attended the experiment in British Columbia.

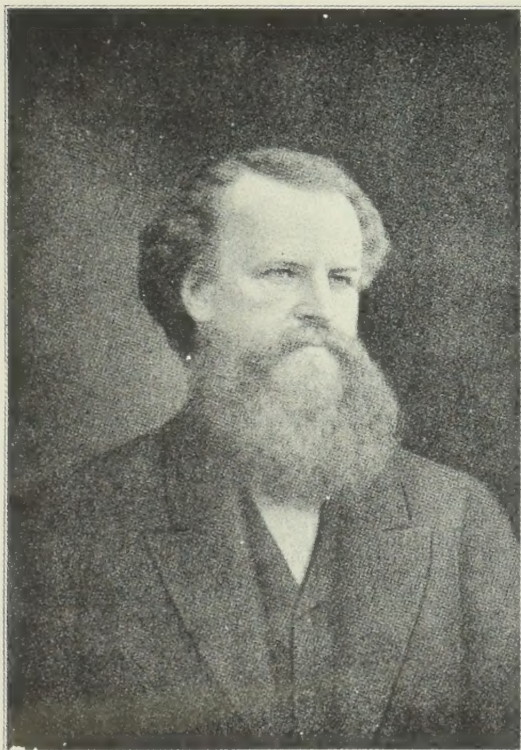
CARIBOO AT ITS BEST

The pay streak, as the auriferous stratum was called, consisted, on Williams Creek, of a blue clay about six feet thick, mixed with gravel and decomposed slate. Above the canyon this stratum lay quite close to the surface, but below that spot the covering was, generally speaking, from fifty to sixty feet. The deepest shaft in this vicinity was one hundred and thirty-four feet, but even then it did not reach bed-rock. The prevailing theory was that this pay stratum was the bed of an old creek, which, carrying down the drift gold, had allowed it to settle either on the bed-rock or in the blue clay above it. The debris of centuries then covered the treasure. Great changes in the earth's surface took place; here a slide, there a convulsion, upheaving a portion and distorting another. The present bed of a stream was thus no index to its old and gold-bearing bed. Here was the element of chance - the reason why a claim on a hillside was rich while one right in the present bed was barren. One miner might be making \$1,000 a day, while his neighbor above or below him found his claim worthless. The former had struck the old bed the latter not. It is evident that such a condition was one for capital and co-operation to cope



MRS. JANET ALLEN, KNOWN AS "BIG JENNIE" AND "SCOTCH JENNIE"

The building was her boarding house at Cameron, but was moved to Mosquito Creek in the winter of 1868, where, it is thought, the photograph was taken. The men are Donald and James Rankin. Mrs. Allen met her death in 1870 by being thrown over the Williams Creek canyon. She was driving from Lightning Creek to Barkerville and was looking back when the horse went too close to the bank



"CARIBOO" CAMERON

with. The individual miner could not take the risk, even if he had the means, of sinking a shaft fifty or sixty feet in a country where wages and provisions were so expensive. Deep diggings were not for him. Hence the Peace River

excitement, already dealt with, the Kootenay and Big Bend rushes of 1864 and 1865.

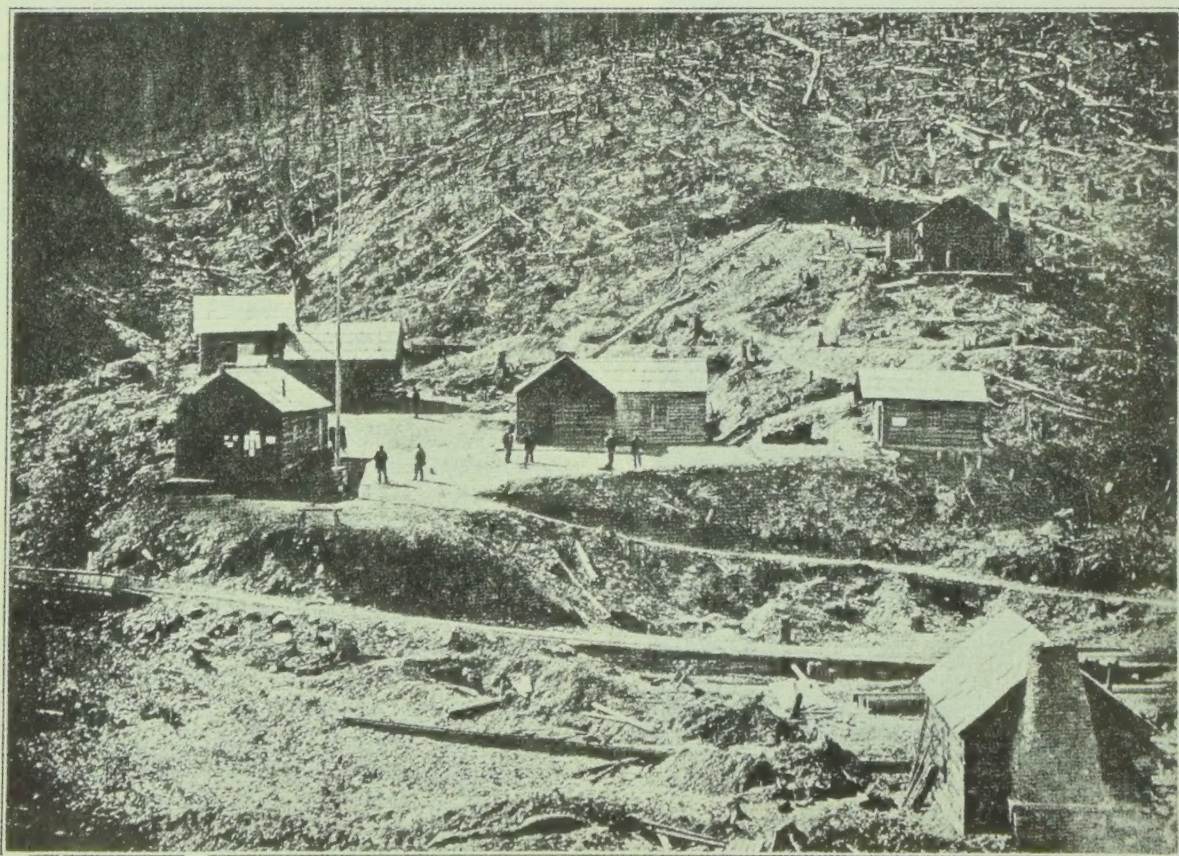
The yield of 1863 - the golden year of Cariboo - is officially given as \$3,913,563, though Allan Francis, the representative of the United States, estimated it at about \$6,000,000.

During 1864, the claims below the Canyon on Williams Creek were all being worked and all paid in varying measures of success. The Wake-Up-Jake, reaching bed-rock in this year, gave fifty-two ounces, equal to \$800, from one panful of dirt. The Ericson on Conklin Gulch, a branch of Williams Creek, which was opened in 1863, now produced a weekly return of one thousand, four hundred ounces. The Cameron claim continued to pay eighty to ninety ounces a day. In the fall, the Prairie Flower, earlier known by a far less euphonious name, struck the pay, taking out in one day one hundred and seventy ounces.

A short distance below the Cameron claim, near a spot called Marysville, Williams Creek widens into a flat, locally known as the meadows. An effort was made to work this ground in 1864. The great difficulty below the canyon, and especially in this section, was to cope with the flow of water. As soon as the Cariboo road came into being, improved steam pumps replaced the picturesque wooden water wheels which drove the home-made pumps; but while these were sufficient in the deep ground near Camerontown and Barkerville, they were of



VAN WINKLE, LIGHTNING CREEK



The Court House

The Magistrate's Residence

The Judge's Residence
Miner's Cabin in foreground

RICHFIELD



PIONEERS OF 1867

Sitting, right to left: Duncan Cummings, Denis Cain, lost with Pacific, November 4, 1875; Robert Brown, died in Victoria many years ago; John Adair, probably dead. Standing, right to left: Thomas R. Putullo, died at Barkville, January, 1879; John Polmere, killed in mine at Snow Shoe in 1882; Mr. Dougall; James Laidlaw, with pan of gold dust; died in New Westminster many years ago, was interested in salmon canning; Finlay Campbell is probably living

This photograph was taken at the Heron Claim, Grouse Creek, in 1867

little service in the meadows. An artesian mining company which had obtained a twenty-year lease of a half-mile square in this locality undertook a different style of work. Instead of the old fashioned shafts this company operated by means of an artesian well auger, bringing up a panful of dirt at each raise. For a short time they obtained good returns, the first day's washing giving one hundred and fifty ounces, but the scheme ended in failure. The regular style of mining was also tried on the meadows on a very extensive scale over a distance of about three miles, but without success, for want of adequate machinery and pumps. The Tiger, Beaver, Richfield, and John Bull were among the claims on the meadows which never reached bed-rock, "never bottomed," as the expression was. From the claims immediately adjoining and nearer Camerontown a small amount was obtained, but the water could not be overcome. The Marysville, Phelan and Hart, which lay within a few hundred feet, yielded \$250,000 and \$300,000 each; but these instances the pumps controlled the water. The opinion was, therefore, always strong that the meadows would yield enormously if the water could be kept out of the workings, but neither in 1864 and 1865, nor in the days of the Lane and Kurtz Cariboo Mining Company in 1870 and 1873, could it be got under control. That company, which had a lease of a portion of this ground, did succeed, by sinking a shaft

in rock to a depth of one hundred and twenty five feet and drifting one hundred and forty-five feet under the meadows toward the old channel, in getting a prospect of \$25, but just as the golden result appeared at hand the water "slumgullion," as it was called, compelled a suspension. It was thought, in 1876, that a bed-rock flume from Valley Creek, two and one-half miles in length, might solve the riddle, but nothing was done, and the riches of the meadows, if they exist, have to the present, defied the ingenuity of man.

Following the experiment of the preceeding year a considerable number of claims worked through the winter of 1864. Amongst them were

Continued on page 40

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FAIR PLAY FOR THE LODGE OWNER, GUIDE, TRAPPER

AN OPEN LETTER TO

The Editor,
North West Sportsman,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir:

The December issue of your magazine carried an Editorial, "Self Proclaimed Wild Life Experts" which was, in my opinion, one of the most unfair and ill-conceived efforts at literature that I have yet seen in any periodical flaunting the synonym "Sport" upon its banner. The dual-purpose of this malignant piece of journalistic endeavor would seem to be an attempt to (1)- deny any layman the right to take the Floor at meeting or convention and challenge theories advanced by Dr. McTaggart Cowan or other Wild Life Scientist and (2) - to deny the Registered Trappers and Guides of British Columbia their privilege of voting at the Harrison Game Convention on resolutions which might, and do, have very close bearing on matters effecting not only their own, but also the every day lives and economy of their wives and children.

On page seven of the issue mentioned you have this to say: Quote-- "Let us keep the machinery of sportsman's discussions and recommendations for the sportsman--not men who farm our game for a living or who live off the traffic of sportsmen-----" You further say, Quote-- "The conventions held at Harrison Hot Springs are another example of this incompatible mingling of different factions--- So long as guides, resort owners, AND EVEN TRAPPERS have an interest in game they are of course entitled to voice an opinion. Let them voice it directly to the Game Commission. Let's keep our sportsman's conventions just that -- for sportsmen and their less biased opinions and requests--" Unquote.

Allow me to inform you that the Convention at Harrison Hot Springs is a GAME CONVENTION, not a TRAPPERS, GUIDES OR SPORTSMAN'S CONVENTION. This Convention as conceived by the Hon. Attorney General and B.C. Game Commission had as its purpose (if my wires are straight) the object of bringing together delegates from the many individual associations who have sound and sufficient reason to feel they are entitled to a voice in discussions pertaining to the Government's stewardship of the wildlife resources of British Columbia.

Here in short was a splendid example of Democracy in its finest gear. A Game Convention at which a delegate from ANY recognized organization interested in and effected by Wild Life management might have equal right to the Floor and equal right to cast his vote for or against any resolution discussed on that Floor.

The Editor of North West Sportsman however sees things with different vision. He apparently would confine such democratic procedure to the scrap heap and make of the Harrison Game Convention a vehicle in which one group interested in Game management might ride whilst others, with equal rights, would be left sitting by the wayside.

North West Sportsman says: "Guides (please mark the plural) though in minority at Harrison have been in the habit of voting on sportsmen's recommendations-----" Hal Denton, Editor, North West Sportsman has been present at every Convention which this writer, as President of the B.C. Registered Trappers Association, has attended. And I have attended them all. I am tempted to ask, "What was he doing during business proceedings? Was he doodling, asleep? Was the procedure of such intricate nature that he could not properly follow it?" Because at each Convention so far assembled the Registered Guides have had but ONE delegate to represent their interests and therefor but ONE vote at the proceedings. This also applies to the Registered Trappers as it does to Federation of Agriculture and Cariboo Cattle-men's Association.

Might I be permitted, Mr. Denton, to inform your readers on how the activities of the Registered Guide effect the annual revenue of the B.C. Game Department. In 1948 the total revenue of that Department was in the neighborhood of Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars. Of which sum non-resident American hunters contributed approximately \$350,000. A non-resident cannot hunt big game in this Province unless accompanied by a licensed B.C. guide and therefor I feel perfectly justified in stating that the guides are indirectly responsible for this harvesting, by the Game Department, of such weighty proportion of its annual revenue.

Whilst I have no available figures as to what part of that revenue is derived from sale of guide's licences I am putting the sum at Fifteen Thousand Dollars. And the Registered Trappers contribute approximately One Hundred

EDITOR'S NOTE

In publishing this copy of a letter written by Eric Collier, President, B.C. Registered Trappers Association (and contributing editor to Cariboo Digest) to North West Sportsman, a monthly magazine published in Vancouver, and edited by Hal Denton, the Editors do so in the belief that a majority of those sportsman resident in interior and northern B.C. will agree in spirit to most of what Mr. Collier has to say.

The part played by a healthy tourist trade is no small one in the general economy of British Columbia --- and especially in the interior and northern regions of the Province. Along the Cariboo Highway, the Alcan Highway and the many secondary roads which are arteries of those highways are invested millions of dollars in gas stations, lodges, lunch counters and other public conveniences which a country must have if it is going to properly cater to a heavy volume of tourist trade. It is a recognized fact that hunting and fishing is the magnet which attracts this trade and we believe if these natural resources are administered wisely they will be a permanent source of revenue in the financial affairs of the Province.

The Registered Trappers, the Guides and the Lodge Owners play a very active part where the annual revenue of the B.C. Game Department is concerned (as Mr. Collier points out) The Cariboo & Northwest Digest does not intend to side entirely with either Trapper, Guide, Lodge Owner or Sportsman, we do echo Mr. Collier's plea--"Fair play for all."

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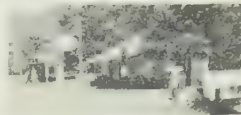
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- Victor Hugo

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and Thirty Thousand Dollars annually. So, if my figures are correct as I believe them to be, we find that the Registered Trappers and the Guides contributed indirectly or directly almost five hundred thousand dollars of the revenue for 1948. About 71.4 per cent. And North West Sportsman would deprive the Guides of their one vote at the Harrison Game Convention!

Whilst I am aware that many sportsmen are far more familiar with the activities of the Registered Trapper than is North West Sportsman I would ask the space to briefly state a few of the many things this Organization (Registered Trappers) is and has been doing as its small contribution to the affairs of Wild Life Management in the Province.

Department of Zoology, U.B.C. is at present engaged in a comprehensive beaver study. This Association has more than displayed its willingness to assist where it can in this very important field of Wild Life culture. We have offered our time -- transportation -- lodging plus what little "outdoor roustabout" knowledge we possess to those who have been assigned the task of undertaking this study. And we are, at the moment, in correspondence with Dept. Zoology, U.B.C. in matters pertaining to their plans for the coming year. Check, W.C. Cottle, Student Biologist, Dept. Zoology, U.B.C.

Department of Indian Affairs has inaugurated a plan whereby those Indian tribes of B.C. who have few if any beavers -- and have not had for fifty years or more -- on their traplines are to be furnished live beavers and guided in the principles of beaver conservation and its relations to so many other species of game and fur bearing animals which, in the past, played so prominent a part in the Indian's economy. Here again, the Registered Trappers Association was consulted and we have assured Department of Indian Affairs our full support and co-operation in this really worthwhile endeavour. Check, Robin Kendall, Supervisor Indian Traplines, B.C. and the Yukon.

Some three or four years ago, at the annual Convention of the Interior Fish, Forest and Wild Life Protective Association we invited that organization to name a delegate and offered to conduct this delegate over certain beaver projects as carried on by trappers here in the Interior. We furnished the delegates horses and lodging when he came among us. We spent four or five days guiding him over the beaver areas. And two of our members further gave him a cheque, (out of our own pockets) to reimburse him for cost of meals, gas etc. on his way up to us. We did this for a purpose: We felt the Interior Fish Forest and Wildlife Protective Association -- an organization which

has ever treated us with courtesy, friendliness and understanding for which we are profoundly grateful --- would be better informed on the activities of the beaver if one of their numbers was afforded the opportunity of seeing large scale beaver propagation at work and could furnish an on the spot account of the part played by beavers where the interests of all sportsmen are concerned. To be frank, we need the help of that organization where our endeavors to obtain tighter beaver trapping regulations was concerned.

Our money and our time was not altogether wasted. To-day, B.C. enjoys beaver regulations comparable to those of any Province in the Dominion -- and a great deal better than some.

And North West Sportsman would take from the Trappers that one voice they have at Harrison! Incidentally, it was my pleasure last summer to spend three days with one of the trappers who helped pay that delegates' expenses. One day we fished a creek which until the trapper himself introduced beavers had not known a trout or a beaver for close to half a century. We stood on one beaver dam and caught all the trout we could use without changing position. At a spot where, six years ago there was only brush covered, dry marsh. There is a moral to this as any intelligent reader will recognize.

That part of your editorial devoted to "Self Proclaimed Wild-Life Experts" is but another example of your somewhat peculiar mentality where your comprehension of the "Democratic" is concerned. "Two men," I quote, "a lodge owner from the Sayward Forest area and AN INITERANT TRAPPER AND OUTDOOR ROUSTABOUT (to use your own disgusting phraseology) from Naniamo Lakes had the temerity to attack the integrity of Dr. McTaggart Cowan-----" You employ the word temerity: I think the word "grit" might serve better. Can you furnish your readers one valid reason why, in a democratic country, these two gentlemen, one of whom you refer to in such ribald terms, should not be allowed to question the Doctor's integrity? And, when you penned that editorial, did you devote one second thought of to what actually was accomplished when the lodge owner and "outdoor roustabout" had the mental courage to take the floor and question the Doctor on his report of the Sayward Forest Deer?

I think not. Therefor, might another outdoor roustabout be permitted the privilege of furnishing your readers what the machinery of your own mind missed? In his reply to his critics the Doctor gave three agencies which work a hardship on the well being of deer. We all know that "Winters of deep snow" is

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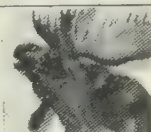
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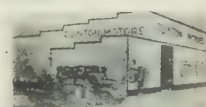
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one such agency. Many there are who perhaps recognize in "Long spells of heavy rain that cut down deer resistance," another agency. However, I doubt whether three per cent of those who are intimately acquainted with the habits of deer had at any time given serious thought to the

Concluded on page 39

Bulls

A HUNTING YARN YOU
WON'T SOON FORGET

Don't All Come

by ERIC COLLIER

Easy



You can hunt them under the heat of a scintillant September sun among the scrub thickets of alder and mountain willow which umbrella the face of the once burnt hillside. And as this is the most feverish hour of the annual rut, can stand very still on the edge of the alder growths, snap the dead branches of a willow sapling and, should the wind be to your cheeks there will be little of caution to the actions of the bull as he moves out to investigate the reason for this sudden disturbance. Thus did Harvey B. Hoff of Seattle Washington, take his moose September last.

Or, when September is no more and the frosting nights of October are an abrupt reality, you may beat the sun from its bed and be out on the swamp in time to see the first flight of mallard ducks leaving their evening flight lake. And should the luck be kind to you, you will watch from a distance as he nips twigs from the dwarf black birch; and carefully calculate those yards separating you from the half dozen spruce trees up ahead from where the shot can safely be taken and then begin your stalk. Thus did the Doc get his bull in October '48. Almost anybody in the town of Puyallup, Washington, will tell you where you can find Doc Mosier.

Then again, maybe you can sit astraddle a windfall in the valley and perhaps in a few moments of time be rewarded by hearing that plaintive grunt voiced by a bull moose as he seeks the company of the female of his specie. And you will follow him by the sound of his voice as he moves higher up the mountain and perhaps catch a glimpse of his shiny black body and dun-coloured horn when he moves into the open burn. Many the bull moose which has been taken thus.

But there is yet another way although a hard and uncertain one it be. When the skies are overcast with a sullen, dense grey, when November awaits her cue in the wings, when the amorous adventures of the rut are no more, when having grown weary of loving and of fighting, he moves back to that sheltered bit of range where he summered. Here, no

scraping of stick against stump will coax him out of the thickets and slim indeed are your chances of viewing him on open swamp. For in those thickets he'll stay until from out of that tallow sky will come the first of a winter's snow.

All this was Gehman aware of when he leaned across the restaurant table there in Seattle and said, "I'm going back there after moose this Fall."

I silently studied the menu. Gehman has his own methods of coming to the point. The waitress brought us our coffee. Gehman glances at Virginia, grinned and then turned to me.

"Well, how's chances?"

I shook my head. "Art, I've already got my two parties for the coming Fall. Harvey Hoff of Seattle has the first fourteen days and the Doc's gang from Payullup the next two weeks And," I reminded him. "You know I do not as a rule take more than two parties."

Foolishness, I admit. But then you see I live in these woods twelve months of the year. A wilderness well populated with game is not so lonely a spot as some might imagine. But a wilderness without game is a drear spot indeed. And year by year for a decade or more there has been getting less --less --less-- . Yes I like catering to my two parties a year for they are friendly fellows, these Americans, and what with licenses, head premiums and guiding fees etc., they pay generously for what game they get. But I like to see some left when they have gone back to the States, for there are other years coming.

This Gehman is a persistent sort of a guy. "Yes, I know about Hoff and I know about Doc Mosier. But you can take just one more when they have gone can't you?" He tapped his chest. "Little me."

I like to argue. "But by that time it will be late in October. If each of the others get a moose, bingo! seven bulls have gone!"

"Eight," Art saw fit to correct. "If EACH of us get a bull that's eight in my arithmetic."

Now what can you do against that? Well, you can try to wear the fellow down. I said, "The

rut will be about over and the bulls hard to find. It'll maybe be around zero and the wind from out of the north. You'll be hunting over other men's leavings and you'll- -"

"I'll take my chances on that," Art cut in. He leaned across the table and asked, "How many times have I hunted moose with you?"

I shrugged my shoulders. "Three, maybe four."

"And did I ever leave those woods without my bull?"

"There's a first to anything."

He snorted. "That's my funeral, not yours."

I knew at the start that the fellow had me whipped. "All right, Art, six days, just yourself."

Art winked at the other half of his 'til death do us part contract. He said, "And Virginia of course. But she doesn't hunt."

No, Art's Little Woman does not hunt. Her job starts when the bull is killed. And she goes back up the hillside with the packhorses and watches me with critical, business like eye as we start handling the meat. And should I perchance glance sourly at fifty or sixty pounds of neck meat with which I dislike burdening the pack horses ("Lets leave this trash in the bush") Virginia's tongue is dripping nectar when she reminds me, "There's enough meat there to feed Art's setter pup for the next six months."

No matter what I think of the matter that chunk of neck always gets down to camp. For Virginia possesses many of those qualities a good wife should possess and is an ardent believer in the wisdom of the adage, "Waste not, want not."

Hoff's boys arrived on September 24th. And as we hazed the pack animals over terrain littered with boulders and windfalls and pock-marked with the depressions of a score or more minor lakes in the direction of the moose pastures, I raised my eyes to Heaven and offered a silent prayer of gratitude that there are yet places in the Province which cannot be gotten near with an automobile. For when the automobile moves in the game moves out.

Where hunting is concerned Time flits by on jet-propelled wings. Four there were in the party and four bulls they got. With a tasty seasoning of bucks thrown in. "Speed" Roberts pinned his bull to the mat within his first forty eight hours of hunting. On the 5th day Harvey and the banker from Kirkland, Washington, both hit their jack-pots. But for Slim who, in '48, nailed his bull exactly one hour and fifteen minutes after leaving camp on the first day's hunt, the going was not quite so easy. True, Slim rang the bell on a two hundred

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and fifty pound buck without too much trouble but he wore out shoe leather for nigh to twelve days before he opened up and tore into his bull.

Three there were from Puyallup, each well

versed to the business. And Os Rogers, an automobile agent by virtue of monetary necessity but a fanatical hunter by choice—a ubiquitous sort of a guy who moves through the brush with the ease of a mousing weazel, slipped up on his bull whilst the beast was rubbing his cheek against a pine tree and neatly broke its neck at a range of ninety feet.

And Mose Levack, a Man Mountain Dean from Sumner, Washington, who, whilst he totes around with him some two hundred odd pounds of flesh, sinew and bone, can get through the knee high windfalls with a grace which the squirrels admire, spent forty hours of toil and a dictionary full of cuss words before getting a decent shot. Just on the edge of the burn stood the bull, his harem a couple of cows. And Mose took one look at the bull, spat out a syllable of joy and lowered the boom. And because his rifle barrel was but six inches from my right ear and because it was plain to be seen that Mose's third bullet eliminated the bull's every hope of escape I implored, "That's enough, Mose, Jehu that's aplenty!"

But Mose continued to lay down the barrage. Until every hill-top within a radius of ten miles had tossed back the echo of his cannonading when he grinned and said happily, "Man, I keep belting 'em just as long as they're on their feet!"

But if that jade Chance smiled upon these she surely scowled wrathfully at the Doc. And it seemed that when we found a bull the hell-cat derived unhallowed pleasure in cheating the Doc of a kill. Oh yes, occasions there were when the surgeon from Puyallup might have snapped in a couple of erratic shots at a fast moving target almost out of sight. But though the rifle butt jumped into his shoulder when such occasions arose, it was almost as instantly lowered. And Doc's head shook and he observed sadly, "I don't want to cripple them, shoot them low down in the flank. Better alive on the muskegs than dead and rotting in the bush."

For almost two weeks he hunted them thus with that patience, caution and fortitude which has served mankind so faithfully where Doc's skill at the operating table is concerned. Then, quietly, decisively, as one who has thoroughly made up his mind, he put the .30-06 away and fondled the Winchester pump. "Bull moose or no bull moose," he proclaimed, "These last few days belong to the mallard ducks and the geese."

Art was as eager as a Labrador pup on the opening day of the duck season, as confident as a fox hound on the scent of a winded vixen. And whatever my own thoughts were on his

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prospects of getting a bull, it was plain to be seen that Gehman had ideas entirely his own.

"Gentlemen, I'm ready this time!" he greeted us as we toted his paraphernalia into the house. I cocked an ear.

"Ready?"

"That's for sure. Why, before I left Seattle I put four hundred and fifty of the hard-to-come-bys in a good roomy refrigerator."

I scratched my head thoughtfully. "And what was in the refrigerator at the moment of departure?"

Virginia answered that one. "Half a cold chicken, three pork chops and two pounds of something the butcher called beef."

Art sniffed in appreciation of the aroma the moose roast in the oven was giving off. He rubbed his hands. "Yes, Siree! We told the kids they could feed that beef to the purp."

"Too bad," I told him. "Doc Mosier was at it for two weeks and they were always one jump ahead of him. And you, Art, have precisely six days."

"Pessimistic, eh," came back Art. Then to Virginia he sang out, "Oh, Virginia, where is it?"

"Where's what?" wanted to know the girl who handles the skillet when Art's through shooting the moose.

"The whiskey of course."

I downed the slug he handed me, rolled its flavor around on my tongue and sighed as its bite tickled my belly.

"Now what do you think of it?" said Art.

I eyed the whisky bottle and replied cautiously, "Well, now, if a fellow had one more shot of that under his belt we could sit around the stove and shoot moose to beat hell."

They were one jump ahead of the dawn were Art and my son when they headed up the mountain. Age is not always so willing to step aside and thus make way for Youth but when it comes down to crawling over windfalls for fifteen or sixteen hours in a row I am ready to concede that Twenty has a decided edge on Forty Seven. And at the dignified age of eleven years that boy tracked a flank shot Big Horn ram over at least two glaciers; and has been hunting and packing big game ever since. He knows all I know of the business and maybe a

thing or two I don't.

They came down by the light of a filling moon and the tale was there in Art's eyes. It is folly to waste verbage and time asking foolish questions when, there on the hunter's face, you have the answer you seek.

"Oh, Virginia," I called, where's the whiskey?" For Art was sorely in need of a drink.

A persistent fellow this Gehman, at least, when he's hunting bull moose. The lifting of another dawn saw them skirting the edge of the burns once more. And all day long they were moving through the blow downs and that night it took two drinks to erase the tiredness and disappointment which clouded Art's eyes.

"Cows!" he lamented when the whiskey loosened things up. "They're all through the alder thickets, out on the open burns. But bulls, do you think we can find a bull? No, not the sight of a single horn." He said to my son, "Ain't that a fact?"

The boy inclined his head and commented simply, "I guess they're about through running."


I nodded. "That's what I'm beginning to think." And to Art I purred, "I hope the kids didn't feed that beef to the pup. Maybe you'll be needing it when you get back."



Yes, there is another way although a hard and uncertain one it be----. A voice which came out of nowhere at all asked me, "And what would you do if the pot were empty of meat, the very last steak gone?" "Why," I answered it, "I'd go on the north slopes of the mountain above the long lake and "still" hunt the thickets-----" As I had gone there so many times in the past when the meat hooks were hanging empty. And if when probing among those I surprised a four point buck and he hesitated one short second contemplating me with wild, inquisitive stare, I would pat myself on the back and prattle contentedly, "Man, you're a smart old Nimrod indeed!" But if he beat me to the punch and sneaked quietly away I would rip out a string of curses and growl, "Only a gosh durned fool would hunt up here in the first place."

Yet never in all these years have I taken a hunter up there after moose. For the alders are thick and tangled and a troop of the Queen's Own Slick Riders could conceal itself in the copses of second growth fir which shade that northern slope. You do not ordinarily

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guide where Chance has so heavily loaded the dice against you.



When, having grown weary of fighting and of loving he moves back----He was there in the torpid days of July for I saw his beds in the alders. He was there as August languished to a close for the pine saplings were shiny and white where he had scuffed the velvet from his horns. And twice during that same month of August did I see him in person when I skirted the poplared marge of the lake. For this was the hour of the Fly: when a trillion tiny pests, thirsting for his blood, made life unbearable for him in the sultry shelter of those thickets. And he must spend his time down at the water's edge, wetting his body, wallowing in the mud bath he had pawed out in the willows. For in this manner and only this could he frustrate the persistent onslaught of the flies.

He was back on the high crest of the hill when the night air began to cool. But now, he no longer ate the green leaf of the alder or the tips of the anaemic red willow with his customary healthy appetite. True, he stripped an alder branch of its leaf here, nipped a willow shoot there; but for the most part he seemed content to bed in the deepest heart of the fir copses and only once every three or four days would he come down for water. And there in the heart of the fir he began to lose that rich skein of fat which had accumulated on intestines, rump and ribs through the kind hours of the summer.

And as the fat left him he would come up from his bed and step angrily to a sapling and root its stem with his horns. And when the sapling buckled he would step back and grunt with joy at the feel of his brute strength; for thus was nature fitting him for the affairs that lay ahead.

Then, one day in early September, I marked the spot in the moss covered dirt where he had pawed out his scent pit and saturated the shallow depression with the stink of his own urine. Here he had kneeled and wallowed until the foul odor permeated every hair in his body. For the hour of the rut had come, and I knew that he was gone. Gone to the naked burns where most moose do their courting, where already the cows, with calf at foot, were gathered for the mating.

For in those thickets he'll stay until from out of that tallow sky----- To Art I suddenly said, "You know anything about "still" hunting?"



In the dead of winter, when the guns have been oiled and put away, ranchers are often greeted with a scene such as the above.

Art's forehead corrugated. "Still hunting?" "Your maximum speed is half a mile an hour," I went on to explain. "You sit down on a windfall and you listen. What's that! A bull? No, it's a squirrel dropping fir cones. You keep the wind in your smeller and you inch through the alders like a cat inching up to a bird. And you know darn well this is sheer foolishness, that you ain't got a Chinaman's chance-----."

"In the last few days I've quirted my legs over seventy five per cent of the windfalls in British Columbia," Art barged in. "This "still" hunting, it sure sounds good to me."

I sigh, turn to Art who is stepping on my heels and enquire caustically, "Art, do you REALLY have to plunk your feet down on half rotten sticks?"

Just then my own boot comes down on something which gives off like a Halloween fire cracker. Art grins. "You ain't no ballet dancer yourself."

No. Life begins at forty-----but not for a Big Game guide. We have come up the south face of the mountain and little of encouragement is to be found on that rough, stony incline.

Continued on page 35

Newest Swiss Invention

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Now for the many thousands of Canadians who relax at fishing and hunting, here is a watch that puts John Alden Knight's famous Solunar Tables right on the wrist.

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'...frankly, I think he was at his best as a diving champion.

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A THIRD Outlet to the Pacific

Upward through the centre of our province two thin lines of steel, like the antennae of a beetle waveringly feel their way northward and provide a road-bed, which, along with the rolling stock that moves over it, is called officially the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, and unofficially such names as "Prince George Eventually" because of its ultimate destination; and the "Please Go Easy" because of the condition of its road-bed and rolling stock.

It is not the purpose of this article to malinge the P.G.E. As a political football it gets kicked around enough. As a blotter for campaign promises it has served more than one party. It has no doubt contributed much to the central part of the province. It has been the source of much humor, rumor and manoeuvre.

It is the whispered reason that the Cariboo, the Chilcoten and the upper and mid-section of British Columbia has not yet got a short, cheap, tourist-attracting, money-saving, revenue-producing route direct to the Pacific Ocean.

For the sake of the P.G.E. the Bella Coola Highway has ground to a stop many times

in its attempts to reach the interior of the Province.

"It would be competition for the P.G.E." is the whispered reply when you try to pin some politician down as to why the Bella Coola Road is not being completed.

If that is the truth (a rare thing in itself from politicians) then the truth has held British Columbia back for several decades from having a third outlet to the sea.

Right now we face the western ocean without a doorway for over five hundred miles of coast, while our neighbors south of the International line have many such doorways. We are like a huge city block with only a narrow door at the front and another at the back.... and we hope that enough trade and commerce will squeeze through these doors to keep alive our active and steadily growing interior.

If our Interior keeps alive and keeps a-growing something is going to bust at the seams, and one of the seams should be this natural and historical outlet to the Ocean at Bella Coola.

As a result of the policy of protecting the P.G.E. (if such a policy can be said to exist) British Columbia has several tag-end roads, the most important of which is the protected project itself, the P.G.E., which, after venturing out into the wilderness (excuse me Quesnel), has to back track on its own path.

Two of these tag-end roads, IF UNITED BY EIGHTEEN MILES WOULD, WHEN JOINED, GIVE BRITISH COLUMBIA A THIRD OUTLET TO THE SEA.

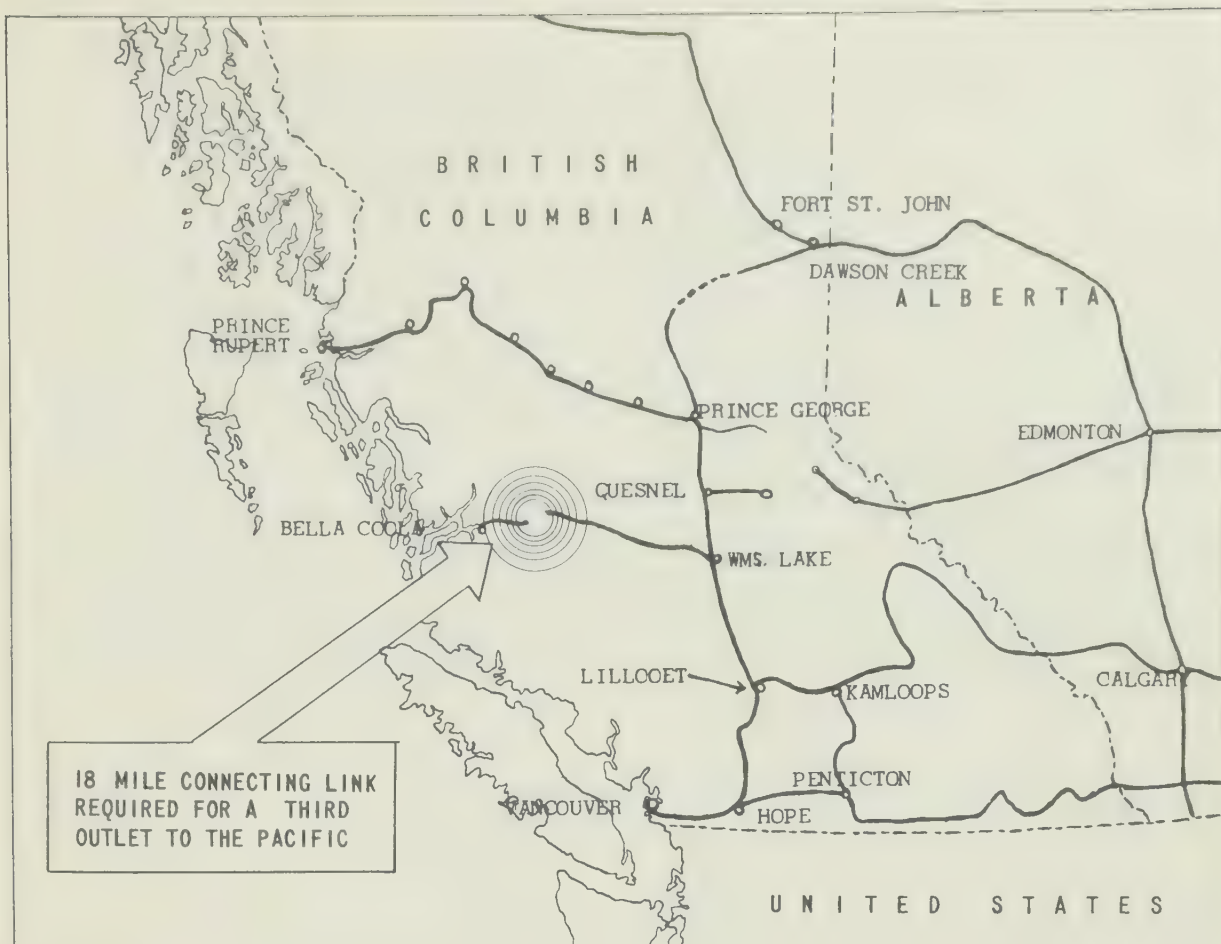
Punch eighteen miles of road through the wilderness and you'll connect Williams Lake and Quesnel with a new outlet to the coast. You will open a vast new territory for settlement and production, and you'll provide the province of British Columbia with a great circle scenic route that will attract undreamed-of tourist revenues.

Punch eighteen miles of road through the wilderness and you'll reach the sea from the Cariboo by one of the oldest routes in the history of the province. It was over this route that Alexander Mackenzie, back in 1793, reached the Pacific Ocean.... the first man to go overland from Canada..AND HE FOLLOWED THE ADVICE OF NATIVES WHO KNEW THE EASIEST ROUTES. When the Cariboo was enjoying its first gold rush back in the 1860's, the Bella Coola route was used as a port of entry for the goldfields. At that time many



The Bella Coola Valley is a smaller scale version of the lush Fraser River Valley, and scenically the equal of anything in the province.





pack-trains of liquid and solid refreshments swung up over the trail to the Cariboo... a custom which, regrettably, has been discontinued.

In 1894 when the Bella Coola Valley was settled by a group of Norwegian Colonists, the government of B.C. promised these people that it would build them a wagon road connecting their valley with the rest of the world. Despite the fact that the promise was made fifty-six years ago, there are still some of those hardy pioneers alive today with enough simple faith in their fellow-man to hope that before they die they will see the government fulfil its promise of a road to the interior. But they have exchanged their wagon for an automonile.

In the meantime expansion has taken place very markedly from the Fraser Valley on the east, and from the sea on the west, until now there is only the eighteen mile gap to be opened before this ancient route could be used by wheeled vehicles.

It is true that the roads on either side of this eighteen mile gap are not of the best, but B.C. Roads (with a few much-photographed exceptions) generally leave room for improvements...and after you have moved everything

for several generations by pack-horses, any road that will accomodate wheels is a highway.

Whether or not it means to complete the road in the near future, the government has not said, but it has made several large moves in the right direction. For instance, in the

Continued on page 32
CARIBOO HIGHWAY

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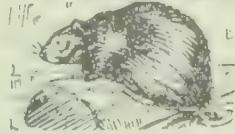
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THE STORY OF THE BEAVER

by CONSTANCE COX



THIS IS THE STORY of the beaver.....the story goes that in the stone age in the Kispiox Valley, a hunter and his wife and little son were hunting. One day the wife said she was not feeling well and asked to be left in their hunting lodge until his return from his trapline. When the husband arrived home with his catch he found to his joy that his wife was well and happy. But he noticed that she had plenty of fire wood, and promptly became suspicious of her, so he said that he was going away to his trap-line again and would return in one moon's time.

No sooner had he gone than the wife went outside and gave a long whistle, and out of the woods came her lover, who had been in hiding. They had a great day together gathering wood, and when the night came they settled down for a good rest together. But no sooner had they gone to bed when the woman jumped up saying that she could hear her husband's paddles on the river; the lover was very frightened and begged her to hide him. Now every Indian woman has a large box made from cedar, two and one half feet high and one and one half feet wide. There is just one seam in the box which is put together with wooden pegs, and a small man could easily hide there.

So the lover hid in the box and she tied the cover down. She was no sooner done when her husband came in. He looked all around but could see no evidence of anything suspicious. He told her that he was lonely and had decided to take her on this trip. When morning came they began packing all their belongings down to the river. When the last thing was taken and put in the canoe, the woman started down to the canoe with the box her lover was in; but she slipped and fell and the box broke open and out fell her lover.

The enraged husband promptly killed the lover and put his body in the canoe and as he paddled down river he made her cut her lover in pieces and throw each piece in the water. This went on all day until by nightfall she had the lover all thrown in the water.....then they stopped to camp and the husband took further revenge by disfiguring his wife so that no one would ever look at her again. Then he left her and their little boy alone to die. She did not die

however; she bound up her wounds as best she could and left the camp and travelled all day away from the direction the people lived as she was ashamed of her appearance and was disgraced in their eyes. She travelled until she reached a very large lake.

She decided to live in the water then she would never have to have people see her again....she would become an animal of the water, so she started to swim until she was very tired. Then she covered her naked body with a mat which she turned around to her back and then made a wish that it would become a tail so that she could use it as a rudder, and thus help her to swim.....this is why a beaver's tail looks like a woven mat.

She next decided to build herself a house, first strengthening her teeth and finger nails by covering them with copper. Having accomplished this she sent her son away from her that he would become estranged and then she could multiply and create a nation. Her first children were half human and half animal. In the village of Kispiox there is a totem and on it is carved the beaver and her half human children...also the head and shoulders of a man who was the chief that won the last battle fought in Kispiox. He stood for three days and three nights directing his warriors, had he not been a descendent of the House of the Beaver Woman, he could never have stood and won the great battle to end all battles in that village....

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LEIF JUELL'S

Reprinted from Forest & Outdoors

NORTH BAY is the gateway to Ontario's north country; it's noted for its fabulous pickerel fishing, for more pretty girls per square foot than any other city in Canada, for having the only employee-owned daily newspaper in Canada, and --Leif Juell.

If you're a stranger in the city and walking along the main stem, you'll likely bump into this Juell character between Wyld Street and the post office. If you see a tall, Viking-type of a figure with a shock of white hair - that might be he. If you hear him speak with a soft Norwegian accent, that's probably your man. But if you're shivering in what you thought was a winter-proof camel hair and he looks as warm as a freshly made piece of toast despite his light sport shirt - that's Juell for certain.

And if you ask him how he manages to keep warm with the mercury reaching down towards zero and a biting wind whipping from Lake Nipissing, he might tell you about his "coat of mail."

Leif Juell's coat of mail is probably the most revolutionary item to appear in the outdoor man's attire in the past century. It is bringing warm comfort to thousands of woodsmen, sportsmen, trappers and loggers during the biting cold days of the Canadian winter—and it keeps them cool during the hot, enervating months of summer.

A person's first introduction to the coat of mail is usually followed by derisive remarks. But once he wears one, the skeptic becomes a fanatical convert. For the net-like undershirt is truly a wearable air conditioning system which really works.

It has been subjected to exhaustive tests by the National Research Council and given its

blessing. The Canadian Army has adopted it as a standard part of the uniform worn by its arctic troops. It has become as important to thousands of skiers from coast to coast as the binding on their skis. Even office workers are singing in praise of it.

The inventor and manufacturer of the coat of mail is a forester and sportsman of long standing. Born in Kristiansand, Norway, an industrial port 200 miles southwest of Oslo, he wound up his formal education by graduating from the forestry school in Konsberg in 1921. His practical education started with a few years of forestry work in his native country.

Hearing of the opportunities in the western hemisphere, he came to Canada in 1927 and secured a job timber cruising for a paper company near Pine Falls, Manitoba. When things became slow in the busk he went to Sudbury, the world's nickel centre, where he sweated out ten years in the mines. During that period he married a Danish girl.

The birth of the idea for the coat of mail was the direct result of environment. Juell was working in the Cotrell plant of the International Nickel Company. During winter it was like a Turkish bath inside. At the end of his shift he had to go out in the bitter northern Ontario cold in sweat-soaked clothing. He suffered from colds, courted pneumonia, felt sorry for his wife who had to do the laundry.

One day the problem set him thinking. He recalled reading about insulated houses and Eskimos wearing their furs inside out. He concluded that if the body had air pockets between the skin and the outer clothing, the danger of chills due to an overheated body would be minimized by the elimination of the overheated condition of the body. Some sort of coarse,

MAGIC UNDERSHIRT

by PHILIP A. NOVIKOFF

Leif Juell's net-like undershirt is not magic, of course, but simply an application of the fact that air is good insulating material. However, Author Novikoff claims the thing does work like magic, and it has been adopted by the Army for its boys in the Far North.



loosely knitted vest might do it.

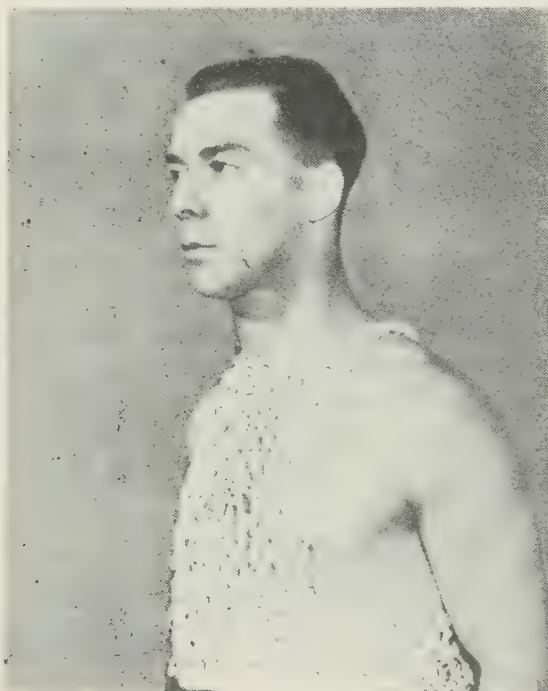
He talked the idea over with his wife who brightly promised to knit him something along the line he suggested.

Armed with a large pair of knitting needles and a ball of heavy wrapping cord, she soon produced a garment that looked like nothing on earth. The net-like affair even made her husband laugh. But he wore it under his underwear the next day.

Results were miraculous. By keeping his shirt open at the neck while at work in the

super-heated plant, Juell felt as cool as the proverbial cucumber. No longer did his clothes stick to the skin with perspiration. After work he buttoned up his shirt and walked home in warmth and comfort in 30-below weather. No more chills, no more discomfort from the heat no sweat-soaked laundry for his wife to scrub.

For some years the Juells wore their net-like contrivance summer and winter, not trying to pawn off the idea on anyone. In 1936 they took a six-month trip to Norway and on their return to Canada established a sporting goods



Here's the net-like string vest, which, at first glance, you wouldn't think was worth a hoot to keep out the cold. But it works like magic.

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store in North Bay. Their Laurentian Shop is
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headquarters for sportsmen and tourists in
northern Ontario.

The Juells, however, did not let their business
swallow them up completely. Far from it.
They helped organize the local ski club and
were directly responsible for the formation
of the North Bay Archery Club. While he had
never shot an arrow from a bow before, Leif
became so proficient at the sport that no one
in the northern city can approach him in skill
today.

In the Canadian and Ontario mail archery
tournaments last summer, he attained second
standing when he fell a few points behind the
national champion — Arnold Wytenbach of
Toronto. His fame as an archer became so wide-
spread in the North he was chosen official
archery instructor to the Dionne Quintuplets
in nearby Corbeil which, in any part of the
country, is considered akin to tutoring the
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Leif is an outdoorsman, forester, businessman and an unerring archer.

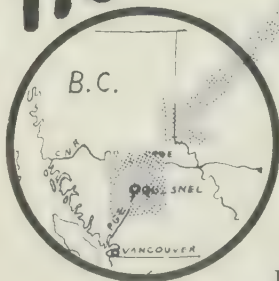
It was during the early war years that the Juells considered the commercial possibilities of the coat of mail. They brought housewives in from the surrounding countryside and taught them how to knit the net-like undershirts with giant sized wooden knitting needles. A

flourishing home industry was created in that part of the province.

Skiers, lumber-jacks, railway men and hunters were their first customers. Then the Department of National Defense in Ottawa showed a spark of interest. Samples were sent

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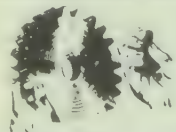
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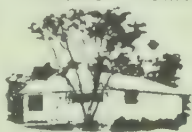
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for a tryout to the Canadian ski troops in British Columbia, to the occupying troops in the bleak Aleutians, to the Royal Navy, and the Royal Canadian Airforce at winter-locked Goose Bay, Labrador.

The acid test was passed on the blizzard-swept barrens of the North West Territories during the army's post-war "Exercise Muskox." From then on the army was convinced.

In advising the uninitiated on how to wear his coat of mail, Juell has these words to say:

"Put it on next to the skin. When starting off on outdoor activities during winter, the shirt collar should be kept buttoned up to allow the body to warm up. Before perspiration begins open the collar to let the air circulate and evaporate any traces of sweat. If the wearer sits down for a rest the shirt collar should be again buttoned up to retain the heat. Because outer clothing is sweat free, the kidneys will be protected from being chilled."

The coat of mail comes in two styles: a coarse-weight for sports and out door work and a light weight for everyday wear - including dancing. Those who go in for stomping the square dance or an Indian clog no longer need see their best Sunday broadcloth become a soggy rag after the first two rounds.

No finer tribute to the insulating quality of Leif Juell's invention can be paid than a statement made by the widow of a railway brakeman about two years ago. Her husband had been pinned under the upturned locomotive of a wrecked train on the Northland Railway early in January, 1948. Steam from the smashed boiler scalded his body. Still alive when rescued, he was rushed to the nearest hospital where the doctors discovered a strange phenomenon. All his body was scalded except that part of the torso covered by what looked like a fish net vest. Upon investigation they

COVER PHOTO



Skiers rest for a smoke in zero weather, doffing jackets to show their string vests. The loose mesh forms a series of insulating air pockets.

learned it was one of Juell's coats of mail.

Although the brakeman eventually died of pneumonia, his wife was so grateful for having seen him alive, she attributed the prolongation of her husband's life directly to the coat of mail.

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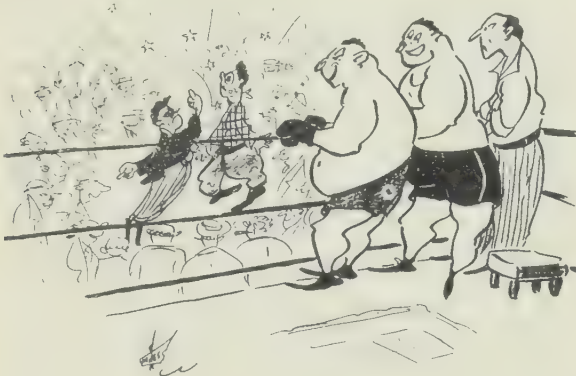


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Game Guides



The following list of guides is published for the benefit of those of our subscribers who may be contemplating a hunting or fishing trip, and who would like to contact reliable guides and make reservations in advance. The list was compiled in co-operation with the Game Department and includes only the names of "active" guides of proven ability.



CLINTON DISTRICT

H. W. Coldwell	Jesmond, B.C.
R. J. Flathery	100 Mile House, B.C.
R. Lee Hansen	Bridge Lake, B.C.
J. F. Hansen	Bridge Lake, B.C.
A. H. Park	Bridge Lake, B.C.
I. Grinder	Clinton, B.C.
E. Dougherty	Maiden Creek, B.C.
J. G. Cleveland	Bridge Lake, B.C.
E. M. Collins	Cache Creek, B.C.
G. & A. Daniels	Canim Lake, B.C.

WILLIAMS LAKE DISTRICT

C. McKill	Klina Kline, B.C.
Dick Church	Big Creek, B.C.
C. B. Eagle	Lac La Hache, B.C.
Hamilton's Bros.	Wms. Lake, B.C.
John Veness	Horsefly, B.C.
A. Nicol	Horsefly, B.C.
F. C. Hooker	Horsefly, B.C.
Glen Walters	Horsefly, B.C.
James Scalon	Big Creek, B.C.
Herbert Skuce	Ocean Falls, B.C.
Thomas Walker	Bella Cools, B.C.

QUESNEL DISTRICT

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Arden Rawling	Quesnel, B.C.
S. Monkman	Quesnel, B.C.
R. L. Marsh	Quesnel, B.C.
Fred Tibbles	Quesnel, B.C.
Fred Becker	Wells, B.C.

PRINCE GEORGE DISTRICT

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J. B. Hooker	Dome Creek, B.C.
W. J. Sande	Sinclair Mills, B.C.
Stan Carr	Tete Jaune, B.C.
R. F. Corless	Prince George, B.C.

VANDERHOOF & FORT ST. JAMES

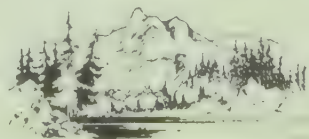
C. B. Davidson	Vanderhoof, B.C.
Joe Leyforth	Fort St. James, B.C.

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Billy McNeill	Ootsa Lake, B.C.
Ed Van Tine	Ootsa Lake, B.C.
F. E. Winson	Marilla P.O. B.C.
Beaver & Clark	Ootsa Lake, B.C.
McRae's Camp	Topley, B.C.

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Blueberry Lodge	Mile 101 Alaska Hwy.
Alaska Hwy Outfitters	Mile 147 Alaska Hwy.
Mason Creek Lodge	Mile 171 Alaska Hwy.
Muncho Lake Lodge	Mile 463 Alaska Hwy.
The Summit	Mile 392 Alaska Hwy.
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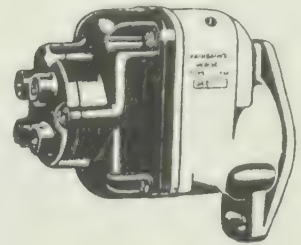
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With a mountain of wood waste as a background, J. Leonard O'Brien, President of Trafalgar Industries Ltd., South Nelson, N. B., holds one of the 4 by 8 pane of "plaswood" building board made from the waste materials.

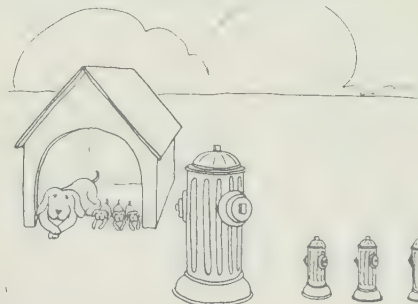
A process has been developed which manufactures 100 per cent of the log into marketable products. The new process has just begun at the plant of Trafalgar Industries Ltd., where waste wood from a sawmill and a planing mill are being utilized to manufacture "plaswood," a type of building board which can be sawed, planed or nailed.

J. Leonard O'Brien is the founder of the new industry and has just completed the installation of \$200,000 worth of machinery to produce four-by-eight foot slabs of building material made from what would ordinarily be the waste products of the saw and planing

mills.

An overhead conveyor carries the raw material to the plant, which uses bark, planings, sawdust and waste slabs in the manufacturing process.

The first step in the manufacture is chipping of the shavings, planings etc., after which the material is dried. Then it is mixed with resins spread on trays and pressed into board by hydraulic presses. Ten panels can be pressed out simultaneously, every four minutes.





THIRD OUTLET TO THE PACIFIC

Continued from page 21

Bella Coola Valley in 1949, it repaired or replaced most of the bridges...over a score of them...at a cost of over thirty thousand dollars. At Bella Coola the Federal Government built a new dock with at least thrice the accomodation of the previous one, and this year is building a new scow-grid..altogether one

The glacier-studded coast range is a paradise for camera enthiasts, hikers and riders.



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of the finest such units along the B.C. Coast. On the eastern side of the Wilderness Gap the road has been built of gravel where before there was naught but a dry-weather trail. All along the road the stage is all set for a dramatic...and effective...wave of the magic wand that will give the province of B.C. another doorway to the sea.

Apparently a little more anxious than others to see the wilderness gap punctured with a highway, a group of people in the Bella Coola Valley got subscriptions to the extent of more than five thousand dollars to extend the road at the upper end of their valley. They asked the government for the necessary permission to do the work...spend their own money improving the province...and waited six months or so for an answer. The government gave them permission to go ahead, with the rider attached that the work be done under government supervision. Evidently those in charge of the subscription did not place any too much faith in the efficiency of government supervision for the project was dropped.

But it could be taken up again.

With the tremendous development taking place all over British Columbia as of today, it is logical that the work of the THIRD DOORWAY be undertaken immediately. So short could be the initial work of getting a road through that this fall you could drive to the coast at Bella Coola.

Yes, you, and scores, hundreds of others. There are thousands of people awaiting the chance to explore new territory with their cars. Give them a chance to drive up the Cariboo Highway, swing through the Chilcoteen Country, pierce the glacier-studded coast range, drop through the lush beauty of the Bella Coola Valley, board a steamer and travel southward along B.C.'s captivating Coast, and would they come? And would they leave money in the country? You don't need to answer.

A redherring that is worn to the bone through being dragged across the trail whenever anyone starts making suggestions along this line is the cost of the road out of the Bella Coola Valley. Some years ago an engineer made a survey of the projected road, and with the idea of a government contract to follow, put his estimates plenty high. But he overshot his mark because the government was scared away from the idea with estimates of costs that ran to fifty thousand dollars per mile.

We know a man who will take a contract to put through the eighteen miles of road in such a way that a truck can run over it for a sum of six thousand dollars.

In other words, six thousand dollars ex-

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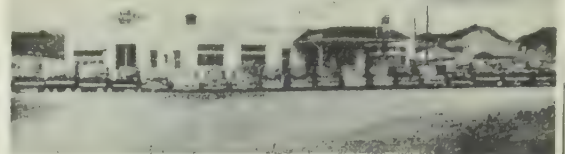
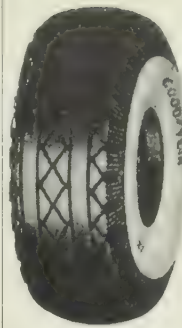
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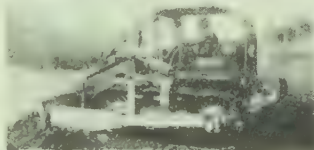
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penditure is stopping B.C. from having a
third outlet to the Coast.

Three hundred miles, roughly, is the distance
between Williams Lake and Bella Coola. Of
this three hundred miles, two hundred and
fifty miles is covered by highway. Thirty two
miles has a defined road and the other eighteen
miles is wilderness pack-trail. Of these last
eighteen miles there is six that is valley-floor
and presents practically no road-building
difficulties. That leaves only twelve miles
of problem. In this twelve miles the road must
rise about two thousand feet. Much of the
terrain here is dirt hill-side.

Geography presents no real difficulties.

The difficulties are in getting the proper
authorities to see that this work is more
important than other projects. If one could
surmount that difficulty, then this fall you
could take your car through the Coast Range
and down the Inside Passage to Vancouver.
It seems necessary to get a sufficient number
of people interested in the project, have these
people publicise it, have them get their
M.L.A.'s to boost for it. This method has been
tried many times, has succeeded some times.

Another way is to develop and extend the
plan of the Bella Coola people to "do it
themselves." This takes time, and money,
and organization and a stubborn will to do.
This has been followed in other parts of the
province. It has never been demonstrated that
the people of the Cariboo and the Chilcoten
lacked the "will-to-do."



ABOVE - An obviously accessible mountain lake
in the upper Bella Coola valley, (Thunder Mt.
in the background) BELOW, preparing to set up
camp on the shore of Big Eutsuck Lake,



Here the mould left by his foot during that wet week in August, there the droppings of a cow and calf but they have not tarried long. But not one vestige of sign which would indicate there are bulls back of the crest.

We swing well away from the high nob of the hill for the wind is hitting our backs. When next we see that nob the wind must be in our faces.

We drop half-way down the northern slope and both light a cigarette. No sense in going lower. If a bull is on the hill he'll be up above us, between where we sit and the nob. For there lie the alders and the fir cospes; if he has lived and come back, there is where he will be.

Now, slowly back up. And now there is no set course. Zig zag below this patch of brush, zig zag below that one. And keep that wind in the eyes. And before we draw near any thicket of second growth fir or a tangled half acre of alder, we sit very still for several long minutes and listen. For in this business of "still" hunting, ears are as useful as eyes.

Here and there the moss is tattered by the impact of some cloven hoof and whilst many of the tracks are old at least one is worthy of very careful scrutiny. And now the red willow shows sign of very recent brousing and the track at the foot of the brush is square and blunt and oh, so very fresh.

Gehman looks at the track and asks in a whisper, "Bull?"

I nod.

"When?" he wants to know.

Early this morning, maybe yesterday."

Art groans. "Wonder where he is now?"

I try to peer through the screen of brush, give it up as a bad job and ask, "Where's the Holy Grail?" For it is that easy.

Two zig-zags and four sit-downs later we hear the crack of a single broken limb. A little above us and it comes from out of a mess of brush from which none could hope to take a moose unless it be hobbled, deaf, scentless and blind.

Art quivers. "What was that?"


"Squirrel," I suggest, "We grow them big in these woods."

Thump--thump- crack! "Jehu!" Art's binoculars come to his eyes though why I do not know. A blind man could see as well.

We ease down on a windfall for there is little to be done until something else happens. Seconds are minutes, minutes hours. The suspense is getting terrible. But I thank my patron saint for that wind---it gives us the

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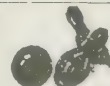


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Chinaman's chance.

Crack---one---two---three---four---.five---CRACK! CRACK!

"Jehu!" Gehman either has the ague or he's been hit by the Seven Year itch.

For the last few minutes I have been trying to remember the "lay". Sure, I know now. We are about 400 yards beneath and west of the nob. And there, close to the nob, is a flat ledge of rock as bare as a mermaids breast. Here, in the waning days fo June when Mosquitos swarmed out of the damp moss as ants swarm from a newly disturbed hill, he would bed down with head full into the wind blowing up from the lakes and the creek bottom. And chew his cud in huge content as the insects were hurled back by the wind to the sheltered timber from whence they had tried to come. If we could circle the thicket, come out on that nob where we could look down at what was below-----But no, the Chinaman's chance, the wind. A chance we could not lose, a break we dare not give him. We had to stay below.

As long as we kept that wind he knew not what we were. For now, only his animal instinct warned him that aliens were abroad below him.

Crack! Forty yards away maybe. Crack-----crack! Something moving away from us. But not running or trotting; just sneaking cautiously along the hillside and placing every reliance on the density of the brush to furnish it protection for the getaway. Just like a wise old six point buck---but this is no deer. This is no cow moose either for she would have been out of there long since.

To Art I whisper, "He's trying to get across to the alder."

And if he once gets into those alders Art and I can go home.

To myself I breath, "This cannot last much longer, somebody is going to miscue!"

Ahead of us now, ninety paces ahead; a stand of a half dozen fir trees. Ancients those trees, three feet around at the butt and thirty axe handles high. Where their network of roots probe the soil for its nurture no jackpine, alder or willow can find substance to furnish it sap.

Art's eyes fix on that narrow gap of an opening beneath the trees as those of a diving otter fix on the fleeting trout. "Jehu!" I stand oh, so very still. Somebody is going to miscue.

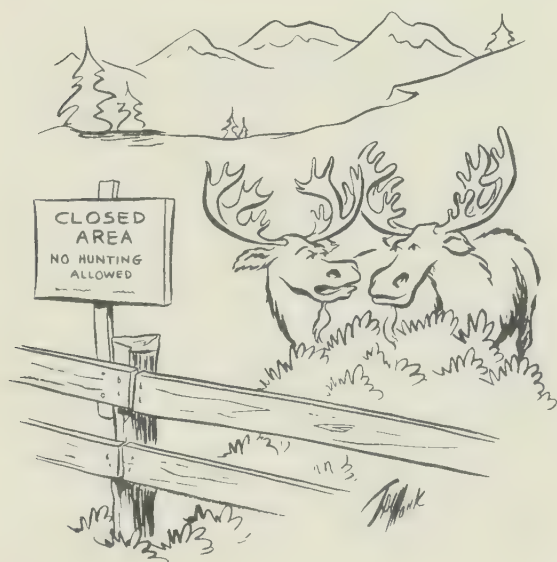
Thump-thump-thump thump-----I sink down on one knee and empty my lungs of accumulated air. That's no bull sneaking away through the bush. He's trotting! He's spooked! He's tossed his cards on the table! Yes he's

miscued. And he is going away beneath those firs.

But that miniature bit of park beneath the firs? A buck would be across it in just three bounces; it will not take him much longer. He is half way across it now, shovels thrown back on shoulders, limbs eating up the yards as a quarter horse eats up the furlough posts. Gaunt as a whelping greyhound bitch from his hours of fasting and of loving, scarred as a punch drunk heavyweight from his battling for the favours of the cow.

Another dozen strides and he'll be into the alder-----for crissake Gehman, shoot!

Art's right eye is glued to the scope, his finger crooks in the trigger guard. A single shot stabs at the solitude of the forest and a score of red squirrels scamper protesting up into the tree tops. There is never a twinge of pain, he does not know he's been hit. His legs buckle as if severed at the joints and he goes down beneath a fir tree as a block goes down from the saw. As must any form of life go down when its brain has ceased to function.



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reason other than that stated above has ever been given for the cancellation of the license, and every effort to have the permit renewed has failed, as a result of which the \$90,000. investment is a dead loss.

Not only has the license not been renewed, but insult was added to injury. Unaware of the fact that Wilson Freightways Ltd. were no longer in the coal mining business due to the cancelled permit, the Federal Government purchasing agency, Canadian Purchasing Corporation, invited Wilson Freightways to bid on 1700 tons to be supplied to the Army Base at Dawson Creek. The letter from the purchasing agency (along with tender forms which were attached) was forwarded to Victoria with a plea that the permit be renewed....Victoria had not the courtesy to even answer the letter nor return the forms so that Freightways could at least submit a bid to supply coal from Drumheller (Alta). Since then the B.C. Government has, literally 'taken over' the mine, stock, and barrel. With no compensation to the original investors, they have made use of the (private ?) road to the mine (with 12 bridges), hired miners, settled them in the Company bunk-houses, etc., and mined some 125 tons of coal (at a cost of at least \$35 per ton) which coal was shipped to various parts of the continent for test purposes. In the process of doing this the interior of the mine was virtually wrecked.

No amount of representation at Victoria has done the slightest good in any of these cases. Yet the Government would have us all believe that it is interested in promoting the development of COAL.

All of which makes us, and countless thousands of others throughout the province ask, "What is happening to 'free enterprise' in B.C.?" - "For whom is the coal being reserved?"

In the Peace River coal belt area of Hudsons Hope, 60 miles west of Fort St. John, and not far from the extensive Carbon Creek deposits, three small coal mines have been in operation for several years. Two of these mines have produced only intermittently, for they are mining coal held under government 'reserve,' and operate on the yearly 'permit' system. More than once, for no good reason, and despite an ever increasing demand for coal throughout the Peace River area, and from Army and Airforce bases along the Alaska Highway, permit renewals failed to come through (from Victoria), forcing the miners to cease

Continued on page 46

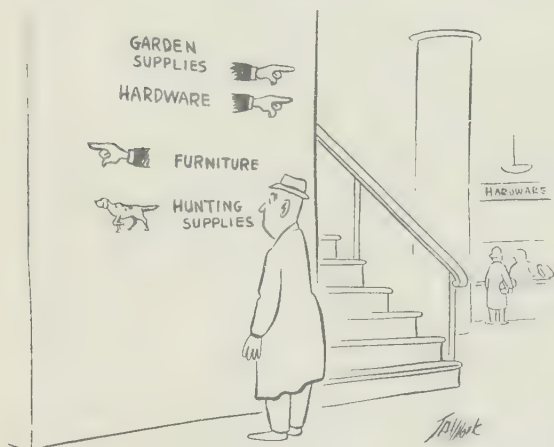
Doctor's third agency "That periods of thirty days or more of cloudy weather cut down the protein content of deer brouse by fifty per cent and that deer can eat their fill and still die of malnutrition---"

This makes sense, and because a lodge owner and trapper had the determination to challenge the Doctor's opinions from the Floor of a sportsman's meeting, the debate which followed gave this third agency to many who are glad to have and ponder over it. Any time the Doctor's findings will not stand up to public question then Department of Zoology is better without him.

I am of the opinion that the Vancouver Island Zone are to be congratulated that they allowed these two gentlemen to take the Floor at that meeting. I am of the further opinion that the lodge owner and trapper instead of being subjected to this vicious abuse by North West Sportsman are to be also congratulated that they had the "guts" to meet the Doctor in open debate.

For if that day arrives when a Zoological Professor, Biologist, Game Commissioner or other employee of the public cannot be criticized or questioned by any member of that public then British Columbia will have tossed Democracy overboard and in place shipped a pilot who would dock us in waters where neither Trapper, Sportsman or Guide would be granted those privileges which they now enjoy at the Harrison Game Convention.

Eric Collier,
Pres.



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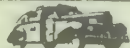
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HISTORY OF B.C. - continued from page 9

the Oram, Adams, Elliott, Prince of Wales, Cameron, Moffatt, Grizzly, Caledonia, New York Cariboo, Watson, and Canadian. This gave stability and an air of permanent settlement to the Cariboo region. Of the one thousand five hundred miners, about seven hundred or eight hundred spent the winter there.

A word or two about the other creeks will suffice. On Cunningham Creek, in 1864, shallow diggings at eight to ten feet were struck. One company was taking out one hundred ounces a day with four men. In a short time four hundred miners had rushed to this creek, the majority of whom were making two to three ounces a day. On Lightning Creek, the Ayrshire Lass was producing from twenty-five to forty ounces a day, and five or six other claims were paying well. The Butcher claim took out \$5,300 in three days and had the honor of producing the largest nugget found in Cariboo, thirty and one-sixteenth ounces. Lowhee Creek continued to produce regularly, but no striking returns were obtained.

The best days of Cariboo passed with the years 1863 and 1864. The yield of the miners was still very large. The official return for 1864 was \$3,735,850, and for 1865, \$3,491,205; but these vast sums came almost entirely from a few rich claims. The shallow diggings were exhausted and the mining population decreased. Only wage-earners and mine-owners remained. The day of the capitalist came with the deep diggings. These gave their handsome rewards to the few fortunate ones. The other class, the labourers, received their wages - high, it is true - but leaving only a small amount after the enormous cost of living was deducted.

On Williams Creek, besides the claims which had paid well in 1864 and still continued to pay, the most famous in 1865 were the Ericson and the Sawmill, both on a tributary called Conklin Gulch. In six days in June the latter produced \$16,845, and later, in the month one day's wash-up was four hundred ounces, equal to \$6,400. The former even exceeded these figures. In one week in July its yield was \$22,400, in the following week \$30,816, and in the next \$18,750; from June 17th to July 29th, there was taken from this claim \$160,672. On Cunningham Creek the shallow diggings which had attracted attention in the preceeding year were soon exhausted. At the beginning of 1865, three hundred men were at

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work, but before the end of the season the creek was practically abandoned. Lowhee, Lightning Antler, Keithley, and Harvey creeks continued to produce; but the conditions were similar to those on Williams Creek - a few rich, deep mining claims. The day of shallow diggings had departed; in the natural evolution the paying claims had passed into the hands of the capitalist. Speaking generally, it can truthfully be said that Cariboo was never really a poor man's diggings; though here and there were spots where the bed-rock lay near the surface, and where, consequently, the poor man could operate. The state of affairs is shown by the census of the mining population in 1865. The total number had fallen to 1,393, divided as follows: 1,000 on Williams Creek, 68 on Lowhee, 60 on Burns, 15 on Cunningham, 30 on Antler and Stevens, 100 on Lightning, and 120 on the other creeks.

The following statistics, taken from Harnett's Lectures, will give an idea of cost and returns from some of the principal mines on Williams Creek: the Cunningham claim, located in 1861, with four interests, cost \$100,000 to work and yielded up to 1865, \$500,000. The California located at the same time, cost, \$150,000 to work and yielded during the same period \$500,000; in 1866 and 1867 this claim was still paying from \$15 to \$20 a day. The Black Jack, located in 1862, with six interests, returned in two years \$200,000, under a total outlay of \$50,000 for work at \$16 a day; in 1867 it was worked as a hydraulic claim. The Tontine, located in 1861, with four interests, cost up to 1865, \$100,000 for development and working, and yielded \$500,000. The Dietz paid good wages steadily. All these were in the shallow ground above the canyon. Below the canyon the High-Low-Jack, with five interests, paid in June, 1867, \$12,000 to the share. The Alturas, on Stout's Gulch, located in 1864, with eight interests, paid off in five weeks during 1866 an indebtedness of \$23,000. Its complete output was \$275,000. The Taff Vale, on the same gulch, cost \$30,000 to open, and yielded from one hundred to two hundred ounces per week, giving a grand total of \$300,000.

In closing our remarks upon the golden era of Cariboo it is fitting to add a few words about the miners themselves.

Reference has been already made to the death of John Rose. As this man was one of the most successful and energetic prospectors, the few details are given. The miners believed in his star and confidently expected that he could and would find diggings as rich as Antler and Williams creeks. Thus his movements were the subject of careful investigation.



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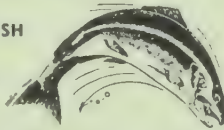


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In the spring of 1863 he set out from Williams Creek on a prospecting trip into the Bear River country. From that time no white man ever saw John Rose alive; his remains were never found nor was any authentic information as to his end ever obtained. In Milton and Cheadle's North West Passage bt Land it is stated that later in the summer there was found hanging to a branch, a tin cup bearing the words, "Dying of starvation," thus indicating his end. But this is an error. The authors have confused the death of Rose with that of Donald Munro. That unfortunate man, wandered into the same locality and was lost. In June 1863, a miner Sim Shively, while returning from a prospecting trip, stopped on Bear River, about one hundred and sixty miles from Richfield, to cook his dinner. Wandering along its bank he noticed a cloth hanging to a tree. His curiosity being aroused he hastened to the spot and found there the gruesome remains of a man. At his head was a tin cup bearing these words: "Donald Munro, in the woods, lost June 1863, is from Inverness Town, Scotland, born June 1825. Not an ounce of food was found near the body; but the stripped bark of the neighboring trees spoke eloquently of his desperate efforts to sustain life. Rolling the dead man in his blankets, Shiveley buried him there.

Of all the miners of the early days in Cariboo none is more widely known than John A. Cameron. This man's spectacular rise to wealth entitled him to the sobriquet he bore - "Cariboo Cameron." Returning to Glengarry, Canada in the fall of 1863, he purchased a farm of two hundred acres at Summers Town on the St. Lawrence and expended vast sums in improving it, but it proved a poor investment. He then purchased some steamboat stock and a saw-mill and timber limits on Lake Superior. these, likewise, turned out badly. As a last desperate chance he staked the remainder of his money on a quartz mine in Nova Scotia. Still ill-fortune pursued him. He lost all. In 1888, he returned to Cariboo to make another fortune. In vain. He died there on November 17, 1888, aged 68 years. His body most fittingly, rests in the quiet little cemetery at Camerontown on Williams Creek, overlooking the scene of his unparallel success.

As an example of the difficulties of transportation before the advent of the Cariboo

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wagon road, the following incident is reproduced. It will serve to cast a light upon the men of '62.

Early in October, 1862, Mr. Moses Cross Ireland, with some others was returning from Cariboo across the Bald Mountain. They had reached within a short distance of a well-known landmark in that desolate district known as the "colored man's house," when the snow fell so thickly that they could not see an object ahead of them. They lost the trail and, wandering about for some four miles, came on another party lost like themselves. Shortly afterwards they were joined by another man, Frank Fulford, a packer, who informed them that about half a mile farther on were a number of people, including a Mrs. Webster and her two daughters, a Mrs. Cusheon, and a girl of 14 years of age.

After a debate with his companions on the situation, no two agreeing, Mr. Ireland struck out in the direction where he thought the lost trail lay. Upon his taking the resolution six others decided to join him. They wandered about until nightfall without satisfaction and, were preparing to camp for the night, when the welcome sound of a gun report attracted their attention and they made for the place they judged it came from. Soon they were rejoicing in the colored man's cabin where they remained for the night.

Early next morning they found the snow four feet deep, but with three others Mr. Ireland started to rescue the party lost in the snow, some thirty in number. On reaching a high point on the mountain they encountered so much snow

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that they were obliged to return. Rigging up some kind of snow shoes they again started on their mission of mercy and discovered the lost party about sundown.

They camped in a ravine cowering round a fire with some blankets rigged up to break



BARKERVILLE BEFORE THE FIRE, 1868



BARKERVILLE AFTER THE FIRE, 1868

the piercing cold wind that howled through the forest. Men, women, and children, with some surviving animals, were huddled together in a wretched state, their teeth chattering and eyes swollen by the smoke driven in all directions by the icy blast. They had been fasting for sixty hours and eagerly welcomed the provisions the rescue party had brought with them. They told Mr. Ireland that Frank Fulford and another man had left them to search for provisions to bring up.

Mr. Ireland saw from the deplorable state the people were in that considerable assistance would be necessary to get them out of their perilous position on account of the depth of the snow. Leaving his companions with them he started out for help, hallooing as he went, at frequent intervals, in case other benighted travellers might be within hearing and be attracted. One of his calls was answered from a canyon about half way back, to which he proceeded and there he found Fulford and his companion.

They had struggled through the snow all day and at length, overcome by hunger, fatigue and cold, had given up all hope. Mr. Ireland supplied them with some food. Invigorated with that, and the confidence imparted by the presence of on their hands and knees for about a mile, when they reached the summit of the ridge. Here they travelled more easily down hill to the colored man's cabin, where they arrived about 9 o'clock that night.

Mr. Ireland, having made known the miserable condition of the unfortunates he had left, about twenty men volunteered to accompany him to the rescue, and next morning they began their toilsome journey as soon as they could see daylight. Breaking a trail through the deep snow they succeeded in getting the whole party including the surviving animals, back to that haven of rest, the colored man's cabin, in safety. Mrs. Webster was placed upon the stoutest animal and the youngest daughter was occasionally carried by Mr. Ireland.

Thus were a party of thirty persons provisionally rescued, mainly through the perseverance



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erance, courage and foresight of a heroic gentleman, Mr. Ireland. He was overwhelmed with the grateful thanks of the rescued party, who clamorously insisted upon bestowing pecuniary rewards upon their rescuer, which he as persistently declined.

Two of the party had been carrying down Mr. Elwyn's, the gold commissioner's, books and papers, weighing two hundred pounds, which they had abandoned in the woods.



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operations, and the investors to throw up their hands in disgust to patiently await the pleasure of the powers that be at Victoria. Since these periods of non-production range from a week to a year in length of time, neither of the two mines in question have been developed to any great extent. Knowing that their operations can be closed down permanently at any time, as was the (Wilson Freightways), Hassler Creek Mine, owners(?) justifiably hesitated to make any large scale investments underground or in equipment.

The third mine, Peace River Coal Mines, fortunately operating on Crown Granted mineral claims, has, on the other hand, shown a steady and marked development. In 1942 the first truck load of coal from this mine was wheeled into Fort St. John with no customer waiting for the shipment. It was peddled off the back of the truck. The 1950 production is expected to exceed 15,000 tons, while expenditures on new equipment are expected this year to total around \$40,000....A good example of what unhampered free and private enterprise can do despite a humble beginning.....

The audacity of government officials apparently knows no bounds. For instance: Thousands of tons of coal are hauled by truck each year to the huge air base at Fort Nelson (on the Alaska Highway) from Peace River Mines at Hudsons Hope, a distance of 310 miles. The roads travelled are in the form of a lop-sided "V", with Fort Nelson on the upper right, Fort St. John at the bottom and Hudsons Hope 60 miles out on the short side of the V. The manager of the mine had found

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large deposits of coal almost in due line between Hudsons Hope and Fort Nelson, and only 40 miles off the highway. He reasoned that if this coal field were opened up with a road it would cut a hundred miles off every coal delivery trip up the highway, and make it practicable to haul coal as far as the R.C.A.F. base at Watson Lake. If this were done the Federal Government would save thousands of dollars each year. From the operators point of view, opening up the new field would extend his market northward.

On presenting the plan at Victoria, where he asked for a 'long term' permit, and assistance from the Mines Department in building the road, he met a blank wall. No permit, long or short, and no money to help with a road, but one of the officials had the audacity to bring forth a map and ask the exact location of the 'new coal discovery'. The answer he received, since it came from a red-blooded Canadian, in whom our government has not yet been able to stifle the pioneering spirit, was unprintable.

If our government has placed this reserve on coal deposits because it believes that 'small' private enterprise has not the capital to properly develop a coal mine, and because it does not want to have the various known deposits 'cluttered' with small operations when the time comes for large-scale development, then we would like to remind those who are responsible for this un-democratic legislation, that it takes as much money to develop a lead, silver, gold, or copper mine as it does to develop a coal mine - yet for \$2.50, the cost of a Free Miners License, anyone can stake metallic mineral claims that may take millions to bring to the stage of a producing mine. Not one prospector in a thousand has the money to develop the claims he stakes, yet he is privileged to stake 8 claims each year, and after either paying \$250.00 per year per claim for five years, or doing the equivalent in work on the claim, said claims may be Crown Granted in his name.

The known reserves of coal are far in excess of the known reserves of any other expendable resource in B.C., including timber (until it is placed upon a sustained yield basis), and it is utterly ridiculous that the province should so guard the coal resources that development is virtually impossible, while allowing a free hand and in some cases excessive waste in the exploitation of other lesser resources.

If the small industrialist is to be squeezed out, as at Hassler Creek; the Bowron Coal Co. flatly denied any assistance, and the multi-

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million dollar Johnson Steamship Lines handed an outright refusal - just who is to be allowed to develop these coal resources. Are we to wake up one morning as happened when Minister of Lands E.T. Kenny handed over to the (U.S.-owned) Columbia Cellulose Co. 100,000,000 f.b.m. of our timber resources, and find that the Coal and Petroleum Board has handed over to some huge U.S. coal mining corporation the rights to government-owned coal reserves in the Hassler Creek area, or the Groundhog area, north of Hazelton, while denying mining rights to Canadians? Again we ask, "Reserved—for whom?"

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Where amidst the waving rushes,
Mother Mallard builds her nest.

Where the cow moose in the willows,
Hides her timid gangly calf,
And cocks wobbly ears to listen
To the lone loon's eery laugh.

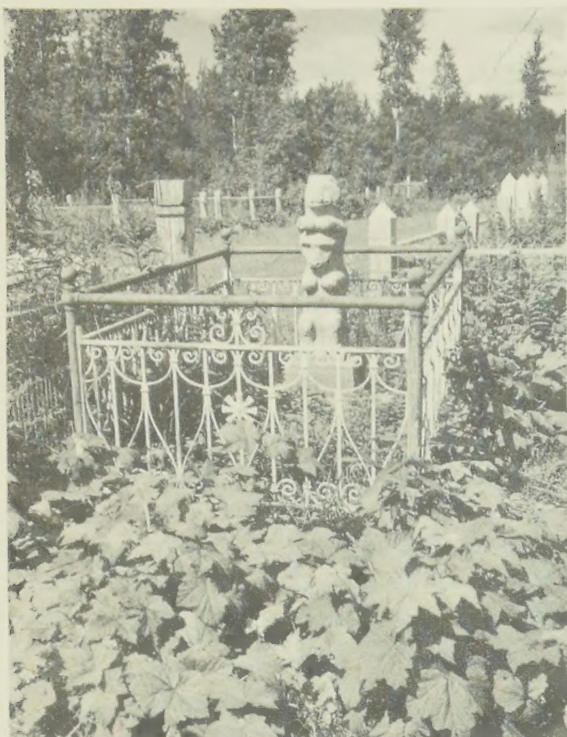
Where I trapped the lynx and marten,
Panned for gold in roaring creeks,
Trolled for lake trout in the evening,
Watched for moose at hidden licks.

Where the mountains reach to heaven,
White sheep guard the lofty peaks,
And with piercing sudden warning,
Whistling marmot startled speaks.

Where the south wind softly sighing,
Through the tall pines overhead,
Scatters needles on the greensward,
Wafting incense 'round my head.

There, the mind, world worn and weary,
Lays aside life's mask of care,
And in Nature's mystic silence,
Dreams that peace is everywhere.

W.D. McBride



INDIAN GRAVEYARD AT HAZELTON, B.C.

photo, courtesy B.C. Gov't. Travel Bureau

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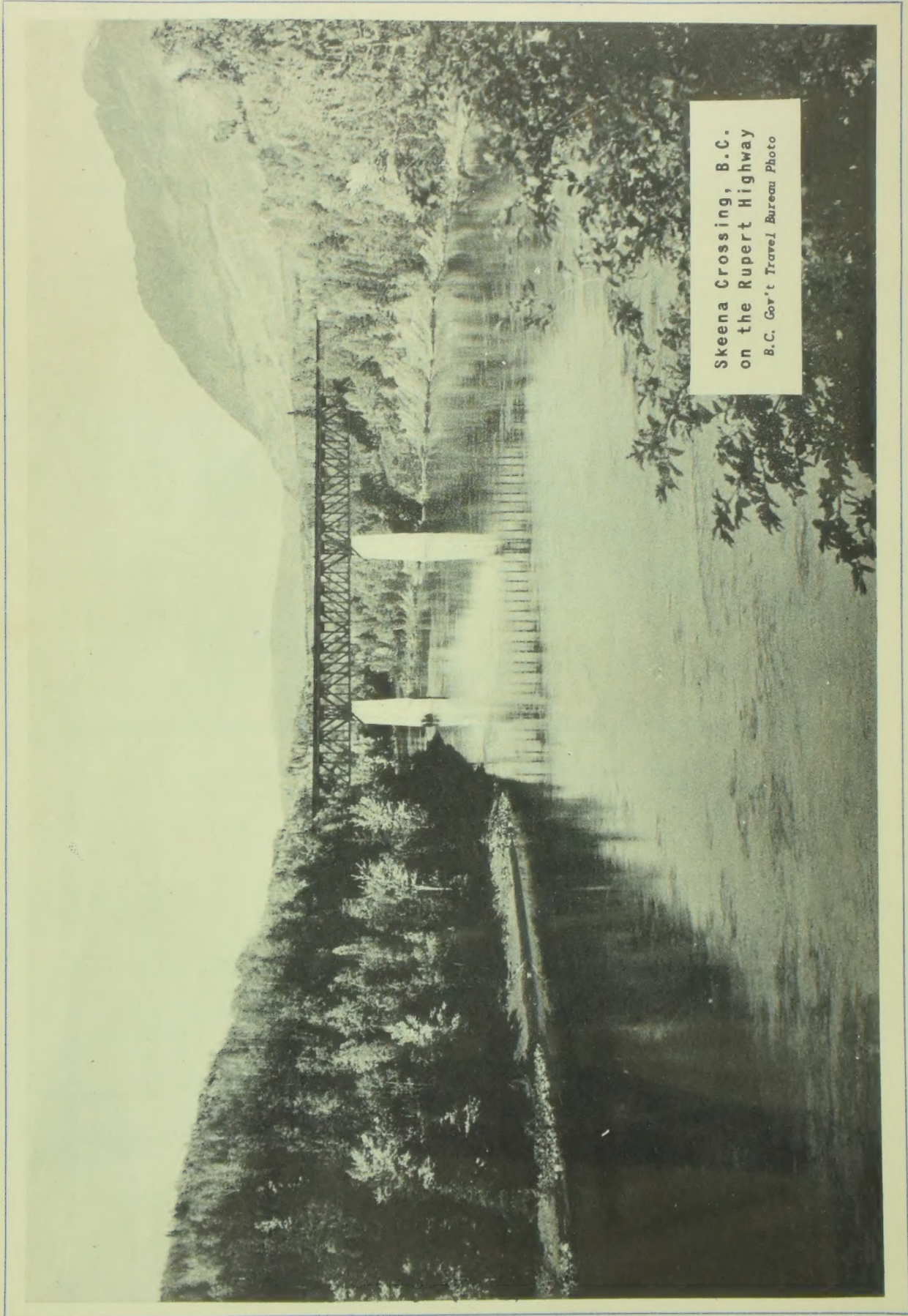
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on the Rupert Highway
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